No One Knows Anything

The idea to create a zine in English found its way to my mind more than 2 years ago. We started to publish a zine /in Polish/, each issue with another name, and we put out "Nikt nic nie wie" /No One Knows Anything/, "Religia na sprzedaż"/Religion for sale/ and "Panta Rhei". Meanwhile I started to prepare stuff for English issue. But I had always many other things to do. We organised gigs, started distro, finaly we started first independent, d.i.y. record label in Poland. Much stuff I had prepared became terribly outdated and I had to throw it away. In some day days we leave on tour with 2 Polish bands INKWIZYCJA and BRUDY so I try to finish it on time and you can see that it could have been done better. But I really put some energy into it and wanted this issue to be out finaly. Interviews with TROTTEL, NOMEANSNO, TERMINUS and Markus were published in "Panta Rhei" before.

We look for help - distribution /our list is below/, gigs for Polish bands, interesting stuff for a zine, cool letteres. We can help in similar way... Write to:

MICHAŁ HAŁABURA
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If you expect to read another story about "communists" sucking our planet or how great and positive changes happened in Eastern Europe you can be a little disappointed. I'd rather like to say something about devils, who have the biggest possibilities at the moment. Those devils used to act under the name of Catholic Church and this is the institution I want to write about.

Poland is well known for big number of catholics - about 90% of our society is labelled as them. I don't know what makes someone be described as catholic in such statistics - it's probably the act of christening, maybe also taking part in religion classes during primary school. Even if I haven't been anywhere as many people going to church on Sunday as in Poland, it's certainly not 90% of the society (church claims it's 20-30%). And if you take the Bible and examine how straight catholics should act, I wonder if you get even 0.05% instead of 90... The power of catholic Church has been built for ages. In the past, during Reformation there was gold age of tolerance in Poland and political reasons made Poles think about national church, independent from the Pope. When counter-reformation, started to win, Poles forgot about this idea and Pope and Vatican started to try to have influence on Polish politics. Poland was for Pope the farthest mainstay of catholicism in East Europe and also great defender from Turkish power, so he used Poland for his aims many times. In 19th and beginning of 20th century, when Polish state didn't exist, Church started to play part in defense of Polish national culture, language. After rebirth of the state church gained much power and influence. But 2nd World War and stalinism placed Polish Church into opposition again. In the past 45 years it was often the only legal institution to support resistance so its legend grew. Public hysteria started when a Pole was elected Pope. There is some kind of a cult of Papa in many Polish families - it's obvious that he's now more important than the Bible (and better known) for Polish catholics. And maybe it's not so strange that Polish nation is so terrible when you see their idol shaking hands with people like Pinochet... Both in 1980 and 1989 Church took huge part in public resistance - on every film about strikes in Poland you can see a mass being said, or workers praying in their factories. So it's not an accident that Walesa has a Holy Virgin sign in his suit. But in 1989 "communists" were gone and church found itself in extremely new situation. I think Church masters in Poland weren't ready to play such a game - they prove it quite often. Such events like forcing religion back to schools and anti-abortion law that they try to force now can only make people turn their backs to Church's cash boxes. As yet, priests use their power whenever they can and as they're only humans their greed, blindness, intolerance can lead and lead shepherds to act like bandits. Last spring in 2 churches in my city they cut most of the trees down in its areas. They talked about different reasons - people's safety, danger of churches being robbed, modernisation, they forgot that we live in one of the dirtest areas of Earth and there's nothing more dangerous than cutting trees. We tried to talk to priests, but it didn't help. So I wrote a letter to the court. And here you can see the power of the Church. I got a letter saying that priests made unconscious mistake and they have to decide if they're guilty or not. One year is not enough time for judge to decide... Another story - since September '90 priests teach religion at school again. For many years youth have learned how to love God in churches' rooms. Last holidays authorities decided, without asking anyone (but catholic Church) for opinion, and with no preparations to put crosses back to classrooms. The main reason as they say is moral revival of Polish nation, which is possible only through catholic priests teaching our youth true values given by God. It's a little strange that sometimes they use physical violence to teach to love (especialy in primary schools). Before the confirmation pupils have to learn answers for questions like "why do I believe in God?", "why does God exist?" from small book - my cousin told me a story about priest from his school who wanted exactly the same answers as given in the book and pupils couldn't even use any different words! Church promised that during first year, priests will teach for free. It's not a big problem for them, 'cause this job gave them already enough profits. I mentioned cutting trees in my city - the court wrote me that if the church is obliged to pay a fine, it'll be divided among parish and it'll be them to pay for priest's fault. I slowly stop to pay attention on stories about priests ordering parish how much to pay as a sacrifice-money, when I see them living their standard of life, much higher than average, I don't care much about it - I think this is the way the world is built, so the Church turning into opposite of religion is not strange to me - look around and you see that it's just like with any other thing.

While talking about Polish Church it's necessary to talk about abortion. Before Parlament elections in 1989, when Solidarnosc first time was able to take part in it, communists tried desperately to defend their positions. So some weeks before elections old Parlament started to discuss anti-abortion law. Since 50s abortion has

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NOMEANS NO

we stay the way we are

ROB STORY

What impressions did you get after playing in Eastern Europe?You played in Poland once and now you're back...

We love to come where people like to hear music.They're really addicted to music here because so long they've been cut off from it.They still don't know exactly what they like,yet they can listen to anything,but there's a big enthusiasm for music in this country.I went to central Europe:Yugoslavia, Hungary,Poland,East Germany.You go where there's an audience,where people wanna hear you,that's obvious,you go where they are.

Do you see any differences between countries of Eastern Europe?

It's like 5-6 years ago in Canada,people are so fresh about it,so excited, they're really into it /music/.In Western Europe and US people've heard it for a long time,some like some bands,some others,but it's not like a big thing,a big exciting thing like it used to be.In Eastern Europe there's fresh spirit with all things that are happening,all sorts of changes.And it's very exciting to have,to play for people here.

Did you have any contact with everyday life in Eastern Europe?

That's kind of good at the level we do it,because we stay at people's homes and we work directly with other bands and stuff like that.You meet a lot of friends basically,we don't talk to people who work in the factories or stores or whatever,but we meet all the people involved in the bands,in the music. It's funny people are the same everywhere,just the languages are different and places are different.One of the bonuses of doing it at this level is you make friends everywhere immediately.you go to some place and people are waiting for you because they're there to help you,to make things go smoothly, they put you up in their houses and they feed you,that's wonderful,that's great.

How's that possible that you can be so open-minded to people?Most people don't like to be so open-minded...

To me that's a big fun.Everyone's so nice,enthusiastic about what you're doing,they're willing to be good friends,to talk to you,half of the fun in doing those kind of tours comes from that.The trouble with us in Western Europe is we are getting too big,we stay in hotels,play for 2000 people,we don't meet new people,you tend to meet the same people because they're organising the shows,we,FUGAZI get so big in Western Europe that it's hard to get in touch with people,huge shows and don't make the contact you used to.It's a big problem for us and I know for FUGAZI too.We have to think hard how we deal with larger crowds,how we do our business,what kind of shows we play because it's too easy to fall into the showbusiness side of things,make a lot of money,play big halls,we don't wanna do that but when a lot of people show up it's a problem,you gotta be a lot more organised.It's not just:we go to a basement and play and get a couple of hundred marks or whatever.

I heard some opinions that you're ones of the cheaper bands in the West...

Yeah,we played Frankfurt for 7 DM,most of the shows in Germany we played for 10 marks,we're not into this large prices and big showbusiness idea,we try to keep it where everyone can afford it,because that way more people come.

Do you have another source of income?

No,because even though tickets are low we make a lot of money.We do it by being independent,by just having a lot of people who come and we deal directly with the people who want to show us and everyone gets the share and the people who come in I hope they enjoy a good show and that's how we're making our money.I think that's good to stay at this level and not to try to get even more because then you get in that stupid business idea.

most money,most opportunities to see bands.Things will change very quickly in Poland,Yugoslavia,Hungary as things get going here people will have more money and they can do more independent things more easily.You gonna have a huge center of music here,it's gonna be very exciting,in Czechoslovakia as well where we'll play next year,I hope for sure and in England we also become very popular,we played for 1000 people in London but I think,again,in Central Europe people appreciate it more,maybe there's not so many maybe they all can't get the records and come to the shows but I think people here more appreciate the music,because they haven't heard and seen so much over the years and they're more excited about it so in terms of the quality and excitement of the audience I think it's better here.

That's Europe,but what about USA and Canada?

In USA it's a struggle,we're very popular popular after 5-6 tours,in West Coast we started doing headline shows,in the East Coast we still don't, America is the hardest place to play for any band,there's less money there, less interest,less respect than in Germany.You have to be big band big name to have respect,because in US money is what makes respect and we hope in Eastern Europe,with all the changes,the attitude doesn't become the same.The West with all the things it has to offer,only has respect for money,and I think people here should retain some of their own values and not just become totally Western ,because to become totally Western is to become totally concerned with money,and I hope that people here will have the sense,when they'll get all the stuff they'll need from the West and they'll want it for years,to maybe keep and hold some of the values that they have,other than money and other than "the biggest is the best","the richest is the best".I think they should understand there are other qualities,in America they don't understand that very much.Some places have good audiences,in Canada too,but it's much more commercial,much harder,much more tough.

Don't you think your stuff is "elitist" because of your way of writing lyrics and the music is also not the "mainstream" hardcore stuff,do you feel anyway connected with any hardcore scene in Canada or States?

Yeah,in Canada and States it's the hardcore scene that we play to.And I am not of the opinion that to play music,hardcore you have to be dumb.I mean a lot of good music was made by dumb people,and dumb music was made by dumb people too.I think that you have respect for your audience and you say as much and feel much and think as much as you can and you shouldn't think that the audience cannot understand.You should put as much mind thought,feeling,as much of yourself as you can in music and have respect for the audience and think that maybe not all of them but most of them will apreciate the fact that there's more in there than just political rhetoric or just blah blah blah and it's really just.That's good and a lot of good music is made that way.I think you can play anything but if you put a lot of intensity and honesty into it people will appreciate it,even if they don't understand it as completely as you'd like,they'll understand and appreciate its honesty and intensity.You have to have respect for your audience's intelligence,I think most people if given something too complicated,if it's interesting and if it has got something of value they'll try to understand it.Certainly in the hardcore scene it's always been true.When we started out we thought no one would like us because we did things too weird we weren't like the other bands

Did you get any offers from big businesses?

We've had a couple of offers from big rich record companies,we don't take them seriously because we don't make commercial music therefore if we got involved with commercial record companies there'd be conflict,they're more powerful than we are,their have their own lawyers,more money,once you get involved with these people you become their employees,you work for them,if you do good job and make them lots of money,if you don't,if you just make music you like but it doesn't sell a lot of records they don't like it.So you gotta stay independent when you're doing non-commercial music.Tiffany can make 1 million records if she wants,I don't care,if it's fun for the people who like it,but for us-we make music that's not commercial,we make music that challenges people and so it's never gonna be wildly popular,but we do really well with the people who like it,we have our own crowd,our own scene and we do fine,so why change:"don't fix up if it ain't broken"-there's an English expression-if it isn't broken,don't fix it.So don't change unless things aren't going good.So we stay the way we are.

Why do many bands give up this way?

They are involved,they just don't think,they think that the golden highway is the big record companies,they have this big fantasy about rock'n'roll,selling big amounts of records,being stars,everyone falls into that kind of thinking because that's involved with the whole history of this music and it's very hard to keep your head clear and keep your feet on the ground erecially when a lot of people start saying you're so good you're so popular,you gotta do this gotta do that and unless you really know where you're going you haven't got a good perspective,you go off and do things you shouldn't do.
We've been around a long time and we've developed very slowly and we've been involved with the record industry on a small level and we know what it's about so I think we won't make too many big errors in that direction,we know what we're doing pretty well and we'll keep doing it.

Why did you start Wrong Records?

Again,this is an idea just to keep more independent,when you have an audience that buys your records and people come to show use the power that you get to be more independent,I mean I like Alternative Tentacles,I liked working with the labels we worked with but if we can have our own and licence and total control of our own material always,the more the better and eventually and hopefully we'll make our own records in Canada,maybe even other places.

What was the story with starting recording with Biafra?

We sent him lots of tapes for a long time,but he never signs a band or puts up a band's record if he doesn't see them.So finally we toured in the States and we went to San Francisco and him and other 20 people showed up,it was more like an audition than a show and he liked us when we played live and we've already recorded "Sex Mad",we'd already put that out in Canada in another record company in Montreal,Canada,who liked us and put out our record there,we recorded it on our own and he heard that as well as thought that that was finally a recording that represented what we were like live so he said "let's do it,we put it up".It was the start of our association with Alternative Tentacles in San Francisco,in the States and in Europe after that and we've been recording with them ever since because it's a small company and Jello puts his money into music and not into business and that's why we worked with him in recordings as well.We have a great deal of respect for Jello Biafra,not only for his music because he actually took what he made with DEAD KENNEDYS and put it back into other bands.He returned the money to the music.He's one of the few people who did that.We owe him a lot.

You have one track with him on "Terminal City Ricochet"...

Yeah.Just before we did our American tour we came and did some recordings with him in Vancouver,he was out doing some with NOA as well and he was doing all the stuff for the movie and so we did a couple as well,we did one on our own and one with him.And then after that we came back and did a bunch more songs with him but they're not finished yet,it's only music,no vocals and it's not mixed together yet,and that'll come out later this year after we come home.So there'll also be a separate album with us and Jello later this year.

What about the plans for licences for Poland?

Yes,we talked to Arek,the person who does our shows here and hopefully we'll make records here,we're also talking to people in Yugoslavia about making records in Yugoslavia,and this is the way to do it,I know it's too exrensive yet to import records into the countries where currencies and economics are still too crazy at the moment so the only answer is to have a record made hereand dirtribute it here.But it was only possible through the government, but we had no desire to work with any of the governments here.Now it's po possible to do it independently so that's what we gonna do.We gonna make our records independently here in Poland and in other countries of Eastern Europe,there won't be any Eastern Europe or Eastern Block.It'll be good for us and them,they will be able to buy the records and we can have our records out here.We won't make much money,but it's better to have records out even if it doesn't give money.

One of my friends said you're more popular in Poland than in any other place but it's only because of the rumour made around you by Arek...

We had good audience in Germany,1500 people in Frankfurt,1400 people,the audience in the German speaking countries has beco e enormous,in terms of the amount of people that come to a show and records sold in German speeking

and they didn't,they really like us but they liked what we did and we've always had good live shows.It took us a long time to gather our own crowd, cause we never had the certain style so we never had this audience waiting /like in metal,hardcore/ we had to go and grab them one at a time at shows and it took us a long time to build the audience but from the start there have always been people who appreciated and liked it and so we kept doing and it's been very successful.I think now the fact that the band like us,FUGAZI have big shows in Europe just shows that you can challenge people's idea what music should be and you can play more and stranger things than they are used to and they can still appreciate it if you do it the right way,honestly,if you don't put yourself above,intellectualize or be "elitist",to me "elitist" is an attitude of people who are "elitist",it's not what they're saying,thinking,its their attitude that this is only for intelligentsia,the smart ones.Everyone can understand the words they can understand the feelingsif they can't understand either they can dance to it,and the level doesn't matter,everyone can get involved and be happy about the music.

What's the most important to you during the gig,if the audience pay attention to what you say or if they dance?

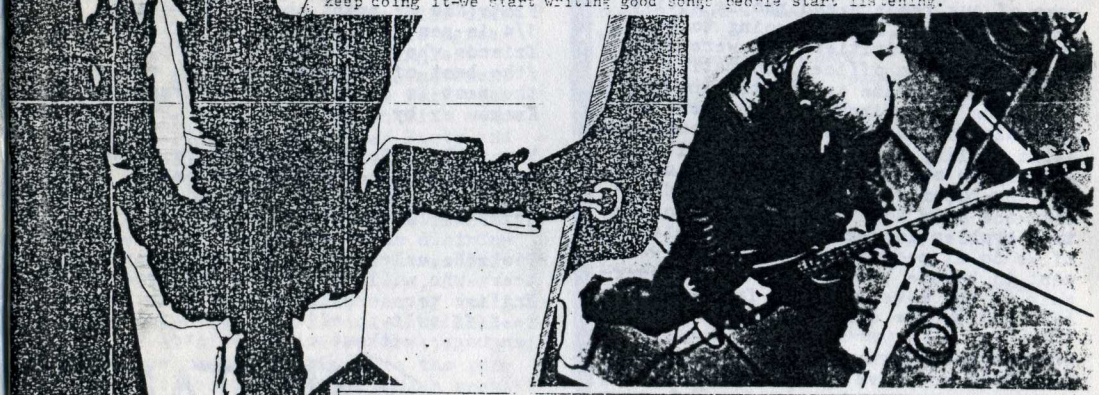
Both.You should have music that makes people think,makes them feel and makes them want to get up and dance,scream and have a good time.All these things are part of human beings.they should all be together in any kind of music.Music is good when all these things happen.If there is a mixture of everything,listening, dancing whatever,that's when it's good.

You're influential now for many young bands,what influences did you have?

It was not so much music,although I listened to much music /metal,hardcore,jazz. I didn't start playing music till I was 24 and up to then I just listened,but what got us all into music was the first punk rock thing,and it wasn't the music so much as the attitude which was that we're not perfect,we're not perfect musicians,not perfect people,but we have problems,the world has problems,but we can have a good time,everyone can get together,everyone's equal, you can get together even though you're stupid,drunk,you can't play,whatever, you're all important,and you can all get involved,you can all have a great time,And that's what got me,I said wow!I can understand that,and people talk about their problems instead of trying to pretend they're perfect,they talk about being fucked up being confused,being angry,talk about real things,and that's whats important about music,not style.We didn't play a style of music, wejust played whatever we'd heard,whatever we played before,like my brother was trained in a jazz band in high school so he makes a lot of jazz influences to our music but that wasn't what started us playing he didn't wanna be like a strict jazz drummer or anything.We just heard that music,we all heard it and said:that's exciting,that's fun,let's be a band.And the music came after.

Did you ever tried to use other means of expression?

I did a little bit of writing myself.But because the band worked and it was successful and we had fun doing it and people had fun listening to it we settled all our attention on that kind of expression.Maybe we won't be a band forever,maybe I won't be a musician all my life,I may do some writing as I'm getting older,not jump around like a kid anymore,but right now this is the most satisfying thing for us to do,it's become very successful as well so we keep doing it-we start writing good songs people start listening.



Do you ever think that playing with NOFEAR.SNO and all the stuff will have to end one day?

All things do.It doesn't have to but it will when it stops giving us good and clear expression or when people stop getting excited or caring about,then it'll stop.But I don't know when that'll be,you can't quantify it.Everything fades away and only a few things last for a long long time.

And can you imagine yourself as someone being with no band?

Yeah.And at the same time-look at John Lee Hooker.He's 70 years old and still plays the blues.It's not the matter of age.When it still remains good,remains something worth doing,if it is,we'll still do it,if not I'll stop and do

"Zielone Brygady" is an alternative ecological monthly magazine,they publish quite varied stuff - from reports from ecological protests,meetings, through informations about enviromental movement,to philosophical articles.Some of them are translated and released as "Green Brigades" - they try to publish English issue every 3 months.If you want to send them some stuff,help with distribution,or just get a copy,write to:

"Zielone Brygady"
Wydział Chemii UJ
Karasia 3/100
30 060 Kraków
Poland
phone: 12/336377 ext.234
fax: 12/226306

I made this interview with Piotr Rymarowicz,one of the few staffers, in October '90.

What was the idea behind creating "Green Brigades"/"Zielone Brygady"? Did this idea change since then?

Piotr:I think that the main purpose of creating G.B. was to stimulate the flow of information in the environmental movement in Poland.So since the be beginning we are not going to express our own views,our opinions,but the one ones of our readers and people active in a movement.G.B. were going to be a part of our activities - we were going to establish an office,information center,where everyone interested in whats happening in enviromental movement and all this kind of informations could get it.In reality we found out that its not so easy to make such a center so until now the paper remains our main and almost the only activity.Theres also another problem connected with a center - if we do it,people can think that we want to become powerful,to make leadership of the movement - in fact we realised that people dont like any centers.

What is your work for a magazine like? Do all of you have certain parts of job to do,or everyone does a piece of every thing?

Piotr:When we started publishing G.B. in April '89 our only equipment was a typewriter.Weve made a leaflet informing about the idea of ecological paper and sent it to some friends and organisations.Weve recieved some texts,weve written some ourselves and we went to ask a computer-technician to write and print it.So at the beginning our work was to select articles to be printed. After about 2 months weve menaged to buy our own computer and since that time the editorial work is done by the staff of the paper.At the beginning I was writing down most of texts,I was responsible for the layout too.Now most of that work is done by Andrzej Żwawa.He is also running distribution. Piotr Grzegorczyk is a treasurer and keeps in touch withthe printers.Krzysiek Kalarus sometimes writes articles I'd also like to mention Staszek Zubek who has helped us for about 1 year. /there was some changes since that time and now editorial staff consists of Paweł Głuszyński,Piotr Rymarowicz and Andrzej Żwawa - NOKA/

Tell us something about finances - do you live from the magazine or does magazine live from you?

Piotr:The magazine gives us no profit, despite of a fact that all editorial work is done voluntary.At the beginning we were planning to break even after several months,but it was much more difficult than we expected.We fixed the price on a very low level and soon our income was not enough to cover the costs of postage /which is about 25% of our costs/.Thanks God weve got some donations from abroad,the main one f from the Foundation for Enviromental Contacts Poland - the Netherlands.Our circulation grows,but we plan to take some measures to stop the deficit on the same level.

How many copies of each issue do you print?How do you distribute your magazine?

Piotr:Now we print about 1500 copies, 1/4 is sent to subscribers,1/2 to our friends,who distribute more copies /the best of them sell over 50 copies/ the rest is sold in some bookshops in Kraków or by editors.

You publish Polish issue every month, but English ones are not released every 3 months as you planned - do you think it'll change?

Piotr:No,unless we find some volunteers who will help us to prepare English versions.In fact it's much more difficult to edit texts in foreign language /without mistakes etc/.

GREEN BRIGADES
ecologists paper

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What do you think about new possibilities given by a change of political situation to Polish environmental movement?What is your prophecy for nearest future?

Piotr:The round table agreements have given a chance of certain improvement of ecological situation in Poland. Unfortunately the communist government which was forced to sign them failed in 1989 elections.The other side didnt feel obligated to release this agreement which is now only meaningless sheet of paper.Environmental movement in Poland seems to be still very weak, especially in confrontation with monopol of Solidarity.Our Green Party and other ecological groups didnt take pa part in local election or played rather symbolic role in them.Probably similar situation will happen in next parlement elections.Enormous disintegration in the movement /3 Green Parties with 3 different leaders,alternative Green Federation,tens of small independent groups/won't let us achieve2% level of votes necessary to introduce representatives to the parlament.Polish Green Party which seems to have the greates chances in the election hasnt in my opinion ecologie cal program nor good leaders.

Tell us something more about Green Federation.

Piotr:Its very difficult question.Probably each participant of Green Federation has his own answer to this question.To me G.F. is an agreement of different local groups which have joined together by several principles /ecology,peace,demoCREAtion/,there are no leaders,the structure is anarchistic.

How does your ecological activity influence your work in school as a chemi mistry teacher and vice versa?

Piotr:Theres a program of this subject which I am obliged to release,but I try to introduce environmental topics as frequently as possible.Now I have several lessons for my own dispositions and I plan some strictly environmental units.Moreover some pupils come to take part in actions we organise in Oświęcim where I live,but this is not connected with our school relations in any way.

cont. from page 3

been legal in Poland. Medical service and public security have never been and still aren't able to protect all the lonely young mothers and their children. But someone decided that while abortion is a serious crime,ruining mother's and child's life is more human, or, more probably, that this question can be used to divide oposition. The problem of abortion caused many quarels within the oposition just before elections. People's hatred to communist party took over, but one year later we have this question back in Parlament. Of course, situation didn't change and Polish social services aren't still ready to help women. But will Pope help such nation of killers to have their debts reduced? And will male majority in Polish Parlament care about women's rights? In 1991 the Pope will visit Poland 2 times. Public hysteria grows - turn on tv set and you can see priests talking about everything -from sex and pornography to economical solutions. And do you think we can afford to pay for all this plastic paradise prepared to make Son of Poland feel comfortable?

I don't believe such situation will change - Poles are conservative, closed-minded, Walesa and his allies are known Church supporters (one of the things our new President did was to promise to God to be a good president - why didn't he promise it to the people?). Many people,including catholics are avare of church totalitarian policy and they try to do something about it. But others have their safe life,so they don't need to doubt. Minority is as always blind.

TERMINUS is not well known,so you can't find interview with them in every second zine.But as Mark,their vocalist+guitarist,had something to say when answering my questions this one is worth reading.They released 2 eps and "Going Nowhere Fast" lp on Words of Warning Rec.-if you like punk with some catchy tunes-that's what you look for.

I've heard many opinions that the British scene is becoming very sick.Do you agree with that? What would you call the best thing connected with the UK scene and what aspects do you find bad?

Mark:I suppose it could be called "sick",it is VERY inward looking and to me,all this generic thrash music is regressive.I think the metal influences have also poisoned much of the scene. There seems to be a lot more commercialism creeping in,and as far as I'm concerned,money poisons everything its festering claws get hold of.One good thing is that there are still people about who CARE about what they are putting out and are not just in it to milk the scene of everything that they can get out of it.Theres nothing wrong with making enough money to put out more things, but theres a hell of a lot of people who just seem to be into making vast amounts of profit at the expence of the "scene".People like Words of Warning,Loony Tunes and a few others are among the few who,in my opinion,have any sort of integrity...I'm not into the Amerikkkanisms that have blighted the UK scene for some time,a lot seems to be very business orientated.The question to me is;is this "movement" just a fashion thing, a youthful rebelious pose to be dumped when the time comes to knuckle under and conform to whatever "standards" our twisted society requires of us...Or,do we want this movement to be a vehicle for positive social change?Do we accept the shit that we have now,or are we fighting to build a new and better world?To me,"punk" has always meant more than just another fashion,another craze for the capitalists to exploit...

Which bands have a big influence on the British scene and are there any bands you would like to see having much influence?What are you personally influenced by?

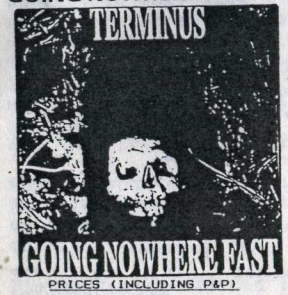
Mark:Lots of metally bands like Metalica /a few years ago/,Faith No More seem to be big at the moment,I listen to that few new bands nowadays that I don't know what's the current "hip" thing to be into,it bothers me not at all.I'd like to see bands with a little more political bias to them having more influence,obviously,but in general,peoples attitudes seem to have changed over the last few years,people seem more interested in themselves and getting wrecked all the time...too stoned to move,let alone do anything constructive. But,that said,as I said earlier,there are still people around who ARE doing constructive things, it just seems to me that there are fewer of them. People don't seem to care anymore.Mind you,11 years of that fascist scumbag Thatcher would get to a saint.I'm influenced by loads of things,too many to mention really,I read a lot of books /political,fiction,fantasy etc loads of different stuff/,listen to a variety of types of music,most early punk but also different things too.We are only losing out ourselves when we limit ourselves to one kind of music/literature/experience...

In these times of bands,labels turning into more commercial attitudes,what is your way?Are you as radical as Active Minds or do you justify profits? What's your idea of honest activity?When someone stops being honest within the scene?

Mark:Profit?I look at it this way,under the present system,if you want to put out the record,be it 5000 or 500,you're going to need CASH /and lots of it/.How do you raise the initial sum required to record and press your disc?Work?If you have a job,and generally it will be work within the system that we despise.Sell goods you have already aquired?Or borrow?Usually from friends or relatives-money that has to be paid back.Wherever,it has to come from somewhere and if you're skint like us,it comes with a great deal of struggle.After pressing,you then have to sell /a thing I hate doing/ them to get the money back then apart from not being able to clear your debts to friends,you can also not put out anything else,whether by yourself or by other bands. I certainly don't believe in ripping people off or making vast profits at the expence of others, but you have to make enough back to continue your creative efforts,otherwise nothing would ever get produced in the punk scene,because the mega labels are only into anything they can make a load of cash from.That's good because,hopefully, it'll keep away the profit hungry sharks of the music industry,and leave the punk scene to the people who actually care about what they put out. Unfortunately,apart from people accusing others of ripping them off over prices /not realising what costs go into these things-records or zines or gigs/ when they are only trying to break even /keep going etc,the scene does seem to be breeding its own species of profit sharks,I'll leave it to people like Active Minds to name them -they seem to have "most" of them well targeted a and they know more about it than me.The thing to remember is that for everything that is released the cash has had to come from somewhere.In this society we can't do things for free,much as others would like to!If you have a separate job to help finance/susidise your label,then fine, otherwise you have to first find the initial cash from somewhere and then hope you continue to break even or make a little over that to put into other projects.I don't think that there is anything wrong with a band/label making a little more than breaking even if the idea is to continue putting that cash and effort back into it,if they're out to get rich at other peoples expense then they deserve all the shit they get. When someone stops being honest with others in the scene,then it's really up to those concerned to isolate that person,freeze them out and not deal with them anymore and letting others know why.Always making sure that they actually have done whatever it is they've supposadly done etc. Profits have always been a dodgy subject within the punk scene and rightly so,but while the present system stands,to a certain extent /and as little as possible/ we have to work within it while working towards a world based on mutual co-operation equality and freedom.One day,hopefully,we'll see a world in which money/profit, inequality,countries and governments have all been abolished,until then....we're fighting within this corrupt system...

TERMINUS

"GOING NOWHERE FAST" LP



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GWENT NP9 7GF, WALES, UK

STARVING NATIONS
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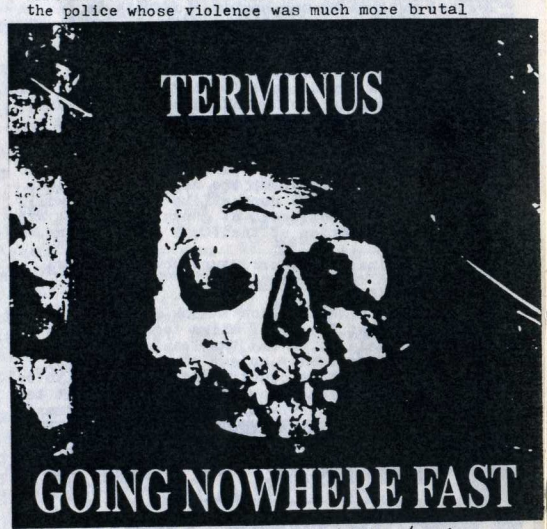
Ethiopia, Cambodia, it's all the same to him, cause he's not gonna call to their every whim. Here you are dear it's steak todsy, He wouldn't give it up for them, no fuckin way!
He eats his tea with a guilty face he doesn't give a fuck about his own race. He's just in it for the money and prestige, he thinks of them as just another mouth to feed.
Sipping his drink, he puts the radio on, it's another appeal, the same old song. "Feed the World" the popstars sing but he doesn't care, does he care?
Western Aid
He goes upstairs with a thought in his head, his mind is uneasy as he thinks of all the dead. He finally sleeps, tomorrows just another day, but the hunger stays, will it ever go away?
It's people like him who ignore the pain and use the media for their own gain. They cannot see what they're taking away the lives of thousands day by day!
Crocodile Tears
THE RICH GROW FAT ON THEIR MOUNTAINS OF GRAIN
WHILE THE THIRD WORLD STARVES FOR THE GOVERNMENTS GAIN



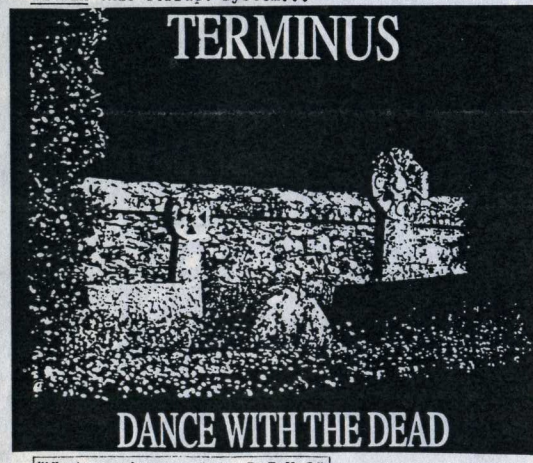
/against defenceless women and children/ and deffinatly organised.The police thought that they could push the crowd around with impunity. How wrong they were!There's lots of community based groups all over the country organising to help fight this affrontery to justice,even though groups of political opportunists such as the SWP and their ilk have jumped on the bandwagon in a bid to gain new members for their stale trotskyite parties and flog a few papers into the bargain, and the Labour party have been shown up time and time again for the spineless right wing wets that they are...I think people are getting pissed off with all sets of political carreerists,which can only be a good thing for us /anarchists/,it's our job to put accross to people that there's another way of organising society and that it's a lot fairer.Obviously it's not something you can ram down peoples throats.People learn by experience and example.

What are your other activities,apart from playing in a band?Do you "hunt the hunt" or what?

Mark:Ha!I'd like to see the hunting scum hunted down alright,along with the rest of the ruling class and their supporters.Other than the band I also do a fanzine/magazine called FORDD which I have put out for a few years on a very irregular basis,I sell Black Flag and Class War around here, am involved in the local anti-poll tax campaign and am a member of the Direct Action Movement which is an anarcho-syndicalist organisation.

Tell us about Poll Tax resistance.Do you think that the Tax can be banned?

Mark:Well,over a million people in Scotland are not paying and I'd like to think that there will be a lot more than that not paying in England and Wales.The massive riot recently when the pigs attacked demonstrators showed just how much people were pissed off with it.You'll notice that the main press attention was on the violence and arrests of the rioters and not much mention of the police whose violence was much more brutal



"Whatever happened to D.I.Y.?"

Mark:It's still here,isn't it?There's loads of bands and labels who are still D.I.Y. but there's also the ones who started out this way but who have been corrupted.I think with some it just got out of control and the money took over...it's what they do with the money that counts.

What were the arguments given by Thatcher's regime for the creation of such a tax?

Mark:That the old rating system was unfair and that everyone should contribute to the running of things and also,supposadly,to make local councils more accountable to the community as to what money was being spent on.The reasoning behind that being that Torys don't like to spend money on services because of course THEY EARN ENOUGH to PAY for PRIVATE SERVICES...WE GET PAYED FUCK ALL wages generally and so rely on these things cos we can't afford to go private!In areas that have many poor people the councils are generally run by Labour,and because these areas are poor,more money HAS to be spent on providing essential

vate.The Tory scum either can't see this because they think that no-one is poor anymore in GREAT BRITAIN plc,or,more likely,they are under the delusion that people who are poor deserve to be poor because if they didn't deserve to be poor, they'd be rich!Basicaly they believe that poverty is the fault of the poor and so they deserve to get shat on.Everybody should contribute the same to their societys?Yes,IF EVERYONE WAS PAID THE SAME!!!Obviously we're not paid the same and so any tax should be based on the ability to pay. Maybe the Rates system was unfair,but that's no excuse to replace it with something as grossly unjust as the Poll Tax.As usual with politicians, the Tory's have become blinded by their own horrible Right Wing dogma,and I hope it strangles the life out of teh scheming capitalist fuckpigs!

Is there much interest in ecology within alternative movements in the UK?

Mark:Yes,there's quite a lot of awareness of ecological matters,though how much of this is facile remains to be seen,and the capitalists have been quick to exploit the demand for ecologically sound goods,which are usually overpriced.You just can't win,the same companies responsible for polution on a grand scale /before people realised the damage the indescriminate dumping of toxic waste products were doing and started to look around to buy less damaging alternatives/ are the companies jumping on "green" bandwagon to make even more money out of people.Will they use some of that money to clean up the mess their endless search for profit has caused?Like fuck they will, they'll have to be forced at gunpoint to part wit with even a fraction of their ill gotten gains.

How do you imagine your future,how will your life look in ten years time?

Mark:I hate to think!I don't look ahead too far. I'm amazed that I'm still alive today as I'm a bi bit of a pessimist,to say the least.I'd say much the same as now really,unless the shit finally hits the fan in this country /like it seems to be in other parts of the world/.I think the next ten years will be decisive /in this country at least/ as to whether things willget better or worse for ordinary people,and I'd go as far as to say the same the world over.The fight is on,and it's up to us all whether we stand and fight now for a free and more equal society or whether the forces of reaction /totalitarian right or left wing/ win and subjects the world's people to an iceage of overt exploitation for another 50 or so years.The future really is in the hands of the people.The politicians and their industrialist backers are shit scared of ordinary working people seeing throught the con /whether it be state capitalist "communism" or western style capitalism/ of government /dictatorial or so-called democratic/ which exists only to keep those in wealth and power where they are and the rest of us working to support them,and seeing for ourselves that WE can control our own societies by ourselves,for ourselves,and need no one to oversee us or ride the gravy train at our expence.Let's show these capitalist inhumane scum just how right those "fears" are and rid the world once and for all of these fascistic blood suckers who have blighted the world for far too long.

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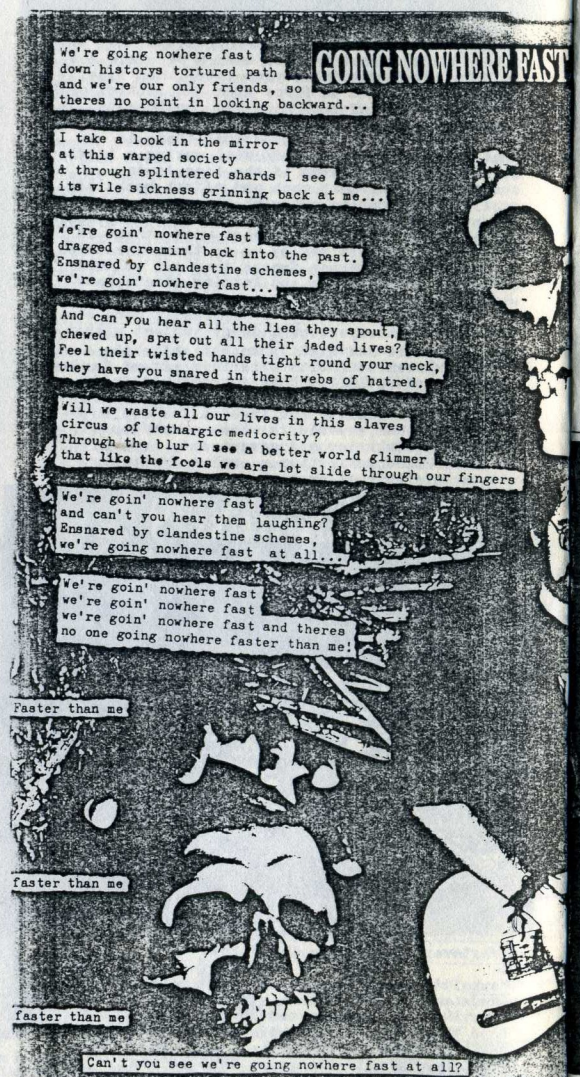

GOING NOWHERE FAST
We're going nowhere fast
down historys tortured path
and we're our only friends, so
theres no point in looking backward...
I take a look in the mirror
at this warped society
& through splintered shards I see
its vile sickness grinning back at me...
We're goin' nowhere fast
dragged screamin' back into the past.
Ensnared by clandestine schemes,
we're goin' nowhere fast...
And can you hear all the lies they spout,
chewed up, spat out all their jaded lives?
Feel their twisted hands tight round your neck,
they have you snared in their webs of hatred.
Will we waste all our lives in this slaves
circus of lethargic mediocrity?
Through the blur I see a better world glimmer
that like the fools we are let slide through our fingers
We're goin' nowhere fast
and can't you hear them laughing?
Ensnared by clandestine schemes,
we're going nowhere fast at all...
We're goin' nowhere fast
we're goin' nowhere fast
we're goin' nowhere fast and theres
no one going nowhere faster than me!
faster than me
faster than me
faster than me
Can't you see we're going nowhere fast at all?

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

PROTI

Usualy,when I read some Czechoslovakian scene report I cant recognize anything I know in this country.Authors write about bands,record releases, zines,but I think its not enough.First,you cant compare alternative activities in Eastern Europe to Western ones.Before the fall of "communist" governments mostly everything was illegal.State censorship /I mean official one/ made releasing zines,political papers,even records impossible in legal way.In Czechoslovakia and East Germany it was illegal to organise a gig,bands had to get some kind of legal permission to be able to play music.In such circumstances.Czechoslovakian oposition was a mix of all the groups + individualities that didnt fit in state's scheme,Czechoslovakian underground music was nearly everything that wasnt heavy metal or /as dumb/ pop.Havel,who is a president now,organised underground gigs in his house in the countryside,also other people involved in underground music scene are now in parlament,city councils etc.Just after change of political system there was also a break in underground world.Now everyone was free to make money on the music,or to choose their own way.Within very short time many new record labels arose and started to release stuff by bands that had no such possibility before - PULNOC /formed by members of legendary PLASTIC PEOPLE OF THE UNIVERSE,imprisoned several times in 70s for political activities/,MCHBAND,GARAŽ,there was also first punk rock compilation lp "Punk and Oi rebelie" released,soon followed by "Akce Punk" and "Punk's not dead" compilations.Those records were released by new labels,but new doesnt mean "honest".It was completely new situation for the bands and labels-managers made them sign some kind of contract giving all copyrights to labels.Some bands wanted to release their own lps later and they couldnt use certain songs.Another "cool" idea of those labels was putting some racist/skinhead stuff on those compilations.You can hear ZONA A singing about "gypsie problem" and later the same band's lp hits top-15 of MHR crew member /"no racist stuff reviewed"...-its not only us,East Europeans,who are ignorant on certain issues sometimes/ and getsenthusiastic review.Fortunately,there are also bright points.In 1990 first really independent records were put out:MICHAEL'S UNCLE "The end of dark psychedela" one of the most weird lps I've ever heard and definitely one of the best that ever came from East,crazy thrash band - SKIMMED "New Insanity" 12"ep.Next indie releases were:ŽEMEZLUC "Fajn,bezva,prima" lp /simple punk rock with some catchy moments/,LUES DE FUNES "The great hard core otrb" lp /experimental thrash? - 2 bass guitarists + drummer make much fun/ and finally "Euro Punk Domain" compilation lp containing stuff from: MICHAEL'S UNCLE,TROTTEL /Hungary/,KARCER /Poland/,JAYWALKER /Switzerland/, HOLY GUNS /Italy/,TEARS OF A DOLL /France/.

The main result of long lasting censorship and isolation is lack of matured bands.After MICHAEL'S UNCLE split there is lack of bands on international level.But I know many interesting bands,SANOV 1,SVOBODNY SLOVO,STRESS, RADEGAST,KRITICKA SITUACE,LOLLY POP,AHC who along with mentioned before have big potential,but none of them plays modern style hc,most of what I heard is thrash,often with grinding vocals /result of getting familiar with hard core through Western commercial music press promoting SUICIDAL T., CARCASS,NAPALM DEATH,MOD/ or simple hard core stuff /played mainly by punk rooted bands/.But idea of independence is really strong - the scene starts to create,first independent places start to exist.The coolest place I saw is a club in Olomouc run by people from "Sračka" zine.The club is situated in a cave of one of university's buildings which are very old /kind of castle/,its not very big,but they organise very good gigs there - TROTTEL ASSASSINS OF GOD,CRY OF TERROR,ARCHBISHOP KEBAB played there to name just a few.Prague is also very good place to play - theres very hot atmosphere during most of the gigs,there are people from Germany,Austria,Poland,coming to see bands playing in such a unique place.Unfortunately many gigs take place in Rock Cafe,commercial club run by some skitheads who even dont let to sell any stuff /zines,tapes,records/ during shows.There are also different places in Prague,so why not to check 'em?I think its better to try 007 club in students hotels area.When youre in Prague at Saturday night try to find Ujezd club /situated on Ujezd street of course/.It's old 3 floor house with video,bar,small gigs venue --its always overcrowded but it is good place to spend some time having fun.As I know western bands

Jiri Proks 9
Astronautu
Havirov

RADEGAST : Jezkovi 4
Delnicka 27
Olomouc

"Sracka" :

SVOBODNY SLOVO : Radek Laurin
Slavickova 1700
356 05 Sokolov

007 Club
phone:422/520777

of Czechoslovakia,which is Czech country,has more bands,places to play etc but I cant say any details.Slovakia,which is eastern part of the country is completely opposite.There is some bands in Bratislava,the biggest city in that area /and its historical capital/:LUES DE FUNES /who already split up/,AHC /new promising band with LUES DE FUNES drummer singing/,ZONA A /old punk band I mentioned before - now they happen to travel some hundred kilometers by taxi and ask gig organiser to pay for it/ but they say there is no bands in the rest of Slovakia...But its not a new thing that Slovakia is different from Czech country - the reason is history of both parts, governed by different powers over the ages.Theres Republican Party who becomes more popular in whole Czechoslovakia among "upright citizens" - [redacted].They are right wing party and that caused their popularity among skinheads who show up during their meetings and demonstrations.It was easy to tell people that Havel and communists are responsible for their misery as people are already tired of economical changes which dont lead them to paradise they were expecting.

So what's so good in Czechoslovakian alternative movement? I like its variety very much.They are not as numerous as in Poland,so they dont separate themselves from each other.There are not only punk/hard core bands and I hope their level will increase soon,there is much potential in it and now one of the most important things is information.There is some really good zines - anarchist "Ⓐ Kontra",animal rights "Animal S.O.S.", more typical "Malarie","Sot","Sracka" so let's see results.I also have to mention that in Czechoslovakia its hard to find any violence at gigs,on the streets,in pubs and it makes a great difference from Poland.I hope I convinced you that they are worth some help.I give you some addresses.

Michał

"Malarie" zine,gigs,tours,distro : Martin Valasek, Grohova 28, 602 00 Brno

"Ⓐ Kontra" : Valdstejnska 14, 110 00 Praha 1

"Sot" : Lubos Vlach, Stursova 8, 616 00 Brno

"Animal S.O.S." : Petr Urbasek, Mokelnicka 1119, 783 91 Uničov

There is enough place left,so you can read some more about Czechoslovakia.This interview was done in 1990 and issued in "Panta Rhei".

L - Lubos Vlach,editor of "Sot" zine interviewed by
M - Martin Valasek,who does "Malarie" zine, organises gigs in Brno and tours in whole Czechoslovakia and helps us very much...

M:Can we start?
L:Of course,you can ask.
M:First,who are you and what do you do?
L:I am the pensioner.
M:The cripple?
L:Yes,I am journalist,I write a lot about bigbeat.
M:And you do your own magazine.
L:Yes,I do a zine,musical newspaper.
M:Since how long?
L:Since 1988,2 years.
M:And what did you do before?Were you active in our musical scene?
L:I was connected with a band in Jihlava.
M:Did you play?
L:I was a singer,I had my own band and I wrote lyrics for bands - I still do it these days.
M:Back to your zine.How many issues was published until now?
L:10 issues.
M:What was the circulation?
L:From 50 to some hundred copies.It's totally out of control.The issue is some pages and I know people who copied it later many times so I don't know the final result.Judging by reactions it was quite a lot.
M:How did you know reactions,there have never been any address published?
L:Never,but it was distributed private way,I organised it by myself.Just like in all underground releases.
M:If we talk about releases...Have you heard what did opositional "Severomoravska Positiva" write about punx about a year ago?/year ago means before revolution/There was an article about one tv program which showed punx on demonstration in Prague.They wrote that punx don't come to demonstrations and those shown in tv /Petr of "Noise Lobotomy" zine and Jarda of "Sracka" zine/ are the hooligans colaborating with secret police.

They tried to estrange people to punks and separate punks from opposition.Two days ago it came out that the editor of "S.P." is secret police agent and he was on a candidates list for the parlament.

L:Wily chap!
M:And all magazine was controlled by secret police!
L:It's obvious,he did it just to get in touch with people.
M:There is the same gossip about""Vukovi"...
L:Today no one knows anything /!!!-"No One Knows Anything"/,we can't know what was the true.It's good to publish such news.But there was hardly any zines in that time.
M:"Sračka"...
L:Are you sure?
M:Yes,first issue.And "Osli uši",when was it?
L:1989.01.31.
M:But Petr also did a zine "Punk's not dead",you took from it an article about DEAD KENNEDYS.It was in 1988./There were also zines in Prague before - "NOKA"/.And what zines do we have now?
L:There is no official rock magazine and I think there won't be.Everything is pop,rock is of secondary importance.The only rock magazines are zines. When I wanted to register they refused,motivating that I am not on the list of people qualified for trade and production.I am no businessman!
M:So what zines are published now?
L:"Sračka","Osli Usi","Až sem" from Prague.
M:In Prague some zine editors moved to new /official/ magazine "Rock And Pop".
L:It is terrible.
M:And what inspired you to make a zine.
L:Myself.I wrote like 3 articles and I thought: what to do with them?Send somewhere - no way.Absolutely not.I told myself: I'd add some translations-reprints and I'd edit it by myself.I had a possibility to make xero-copies - in 1988 it was very hard.It wasn't planned at all - now I do a zine and I did it.I was just listening to bigbeat when I was doing it.Bigbeat is a part of my life. Every day I listen to it some hours.Kind of spiritual food.As important as normal one.
M:The next question is about the position of unprofessional bands in Czechoslovakia.There was an underground existing because bands couldn't play officialy...
L:Underground,de facto,is not a musical style,but the state of soul.All bands who wanted to be independent had absolutely no other possibility than to act within substructures,only for themselves.To organize gigs by themselves and take a risk.Bigbeat was an illegal thing.Everyone knows that all bands were registered by secret police,even those official.In 70s Nagor's Second Culture arose,the bands tied with "Vokno":PLASTIC PEOPLE OF THE UNIVERSE, DG 307,Bily Svetlo,UMELA HMOTA,more of them,BOBES BAND,DOKTOR PROSTERADLO BAND.There was big influence of 60s music.The best of them were probably PPU and DG 307.And I forgot!There was also AKTUAL, Knížak was great person.

M:And in 80s?
L:It lost contact with reality,a little bit.
M:Maybe because of the lack of new bands?
L:There were new bands,i.e. PSI VOJACI,but it died because of some reasons.Cunas was 3 years in prison and "Vokno" didn't come out at the time,Nagor was imprisoned too,so...
There were 3 big festivals,totally illegal,in 1974, 76,78 at Havel's Hradecek,when they came back from a prison /at that time many people got arrested for signing Charta 77,Havel among others,who made those festivals possible to organise in his summer house - Martin/,later there was big police terror,oppression,many people emigrated,voluntary or under the pressure.That was a reason DG 307 split up,Brabenec "left" PPU.He was very important person in a band, music was made by Hlavsa,Brabenec was the power behind the throne.Nagor was important too,but not with music,rather with ideology.

M:You told PSI VOJACI were underground - but later they started to do official gigs.
L:Last big concert took place in 1978.It was a time Jazz Section already existed /it was kind of legal cat's paw for all kinds of underground bands,not only jazz - NOKA/,where first contacts with official scene took place,but it was only small scale. PSI VOJACI played first gig during Prague's Jazz Days,organised legally by Jazz Section,later even Jazz Section was forbidden.It was 1980-81,the top of Nagor's Second Culture.The best records were released.Paul Wilson,ex-member of PPU,who was of canadian origin created a label in Canada,called "Bozi Mlyn" and published PPU,DG 307 records,meantime UMELA HMOTA,Bily Svetlo split up - they were crazy,they ended up in psychiatric hospital.PSI VOJACI have already played,but there were no big concerts,they played 2 times a year where they only could.Since 1984 new wind came to underground.Punk bands,delayed as usually - here it lasts at least 4-5 years before anything reaches us.Just like with hard core nowadays.There was a moment that every band was kina cult band,the same people came to their underground gigs,everyoneknew each other.They entered into more friendly relations with legal bands.Underground became a little archaic.But there were good punk bands,there were Chadima,ENERGIE G, OZW,many of them.In every city underground bands existed.I have also played bigbeat,about half a year,we had no gig,just practicing,we recorded some tape,I don't know if it exists anymore.For example ENERGIE G - "Melody Maker" mentioned them but there is no stuff recorded.There is more such bands.PPU had possibilities,they had friends in West.Today there is no problem.Nearly everyone has a tape recorder.Every band can record demo.Before November 89 there was only small risk.Now it is not the best either.We have 45 record labels registered but just like they told in twiwe are all on the same line,but with different amount of money each. Today you can start a record label,but you need some money.People doing bigbeat haven't got them,only swines have them - pop or thone who made money during communism.

M:What is the situation with gigs like?Many bands started to play officialy even before November.
L:It was a pile of shit.
M:Yes,they changed.
L:Officialy...kinda half-officially.Joska Skalnik /Jazz Section activist/ made a cover for the record for state label...They were different people... Underground was slowly becoming one with official scene.
M:That's what I mean.
L:It couldn't end up some other way,do you see? Illegal cultural front was becoming quite strong. And after "revolution"?PPU was a byword of certain subculture and now they are state band.They are no longer PPU,they are PULNOC now,it is pop,shit /I like PULNOC - Martin;me too - Michal/.They have nothing in common with PPU.Nagor says they are the best band in whole world.About situation with people on the gigs - before it was SOMETHING,today it is normal thing and people are lazy,so they don't show up.
M:Maybe that's because there is too many gigs?
L:Some time ago there was.But now?There is only a few.What is now?There are gigs,a few people come, most gigs don't break even,bands get only travel costs back.
M:But underground gigs were done such way that bands didn't ask for any money at all.
L:There were mostly invitations,people collected money for a soundman and hall rent.If there was some money left,bands got money.
M:Which bands from today's scene you like?
L:SKIMMED,SRK,SVOBODNY SLOVO,SANOV,Chadima - he is good,but I think it is not spontaneous enough.It is not modern bigbeat.I prefere today.I like PSI VOJACI...help me.
M:KOKRMENT...
L:Yes,KOKRMENT.Not from 2 years ago,but from 1990. Venera is also much fun.His band is SVATY VINCENT. I call it Schweik in Kafka's transcription.Some of the bands I liked don't exist anymore.LAMBERTUV EXTREMISTA was a band which played some times and split up.
M:And what is the situation with recording,records like?In the past,now,in the future...
L:In 70s it was OK.There were tapes,first edition was called "Katr".I don't know if it was Cibulka who released it,but I know it was first independent release in our area.PPU,UMELA HMOTA,Bily Svetlo were issued then.Later Chadima started his own tape label but there is not much of it published and it'd be good to make some compilations from it.How should it look like today?Independent labels publishing independent music will rise,but bands have to start those labels.
M:But even before bands made recordings for a couple of friends.
L:Not sooner than in 80s.Chadima,Cibulka,Rytmicka Mladez...
M:What is Cibulka doing now?
L:I don't know.
M:I heard he told he'd release some tapes...
L:Maybe he'll start tape label?
M:He even made agreements with some bands already.
L:It's important to pay more attention to a quality than to quantity.
M:Learning from past errors...
L:He is so private.You can't tell him anything...
M:There are also other interesting thing happening. What makes you puzzled?
L:One phenomenon was independent tape labels.Many people say it is dead,but I think it could live still.This is a base.Within substructures at least.
M:Before,we had administrative pressure,now we have economical.
L:Exactly.Like in West before.There was money,here was police.And we strain to West and bureaucracy still lasts here.They catch you,50000 stampa,taxes, money,nerves of steel if you want to do anything legal way.
M:So it is the best to do it illegaly.
L:But you can be punished.You can do underground,like in communist era,or legally.Then you pay taxes from everything.For example SRK payed for the CD they published 91 or 92% tax,they lacked some stamps,but they wanted to publish it before elections,because there was a song "Free Elections" and they wanted it to appear in shops before elections.So you don't do it for money,it's nearly impossible.
M:Because of taxes zine or record are more expensive

TROTTEL

TROTTEL is one of a few bands from Eastern Europe who toured in West and for them it means more than 100 gigs in 1990...Some of those gigs took place in Poland so we had good chance to speak about...-read it to check about what.They have "Borderline Syndrome" lp and "Your sincere innocence" maxi released by Gougnaf in France,maxi is also on X-mist in Germany. "Don't wait or hesitate..."

Different bands used to play covers,but there are usualy punk/hc/rock songs being covered.You decided to play George Brassens' song-why?

Tomas:This song-"Le Roi des Cons" /The King of Assholes/ speaks that in a world a lot of things can happen,for example you can beat every king,of every country,but you can't beat the King of Assholes.When I heard it first time I thought it was the most true song I've ever heard.If you see Eastern Europe,for example,system changes,governments change,but fools never change.It's not a question of capitalism and communism,it's just a question of stupid people,of such mentality everywhere.Brassens was in anarchist movement in 60s,later he left the movement,but you can feel it in his lyrics,
Generally in his lyrics he makes jokes about his own public.In France nearly every second man has Brassens' record at home,he plays in really big halls and for big public /like in "Olympia"/. People listen to lyrics aimed at themselves and they enjoy them.

Every band that started to exist in East Europe when communists ruled can call themselves political band,because of the conditions they had to deal with.You still call yourselves a political band-what does it mean to you today?

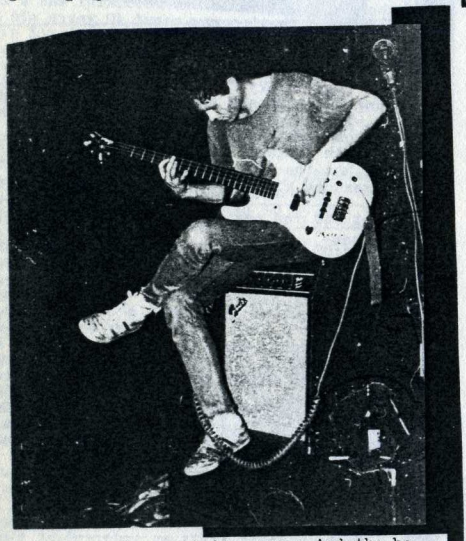
Tomas:It's true that every band could call themselves political because of the conditions.But we never called ourselves political because of conditions,but because our existence is influenced by politics.The most important thing is not if you've political lyrics or not-we have some.In our way of acting there is a political way.It's not the same for us how we organise our activity.Because we don't agree with political situation in the world and in Hungary especially,we have to propose something,not even in the lyrics,but in the way of organising.It's true that before it was enough to be a punk band with punk music and directly political lyrics against police,for example.But I think it's senseless now,after all the changes,to do such thing,write such lyrics and those bands are not political bands.But if we call "political" bands which have only lyrics about political situation-in that sense we're not a political band.

So what do you propose?

Tomas:In our act,we propose D.I.Y.-it's so simple. We propose more human relations with those people, who work with us and with whom we work,because we believe that there's another way which is better than usual way.

But why is it hc/alternative scene you put your trust in?

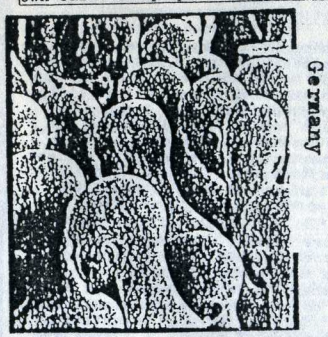
Tomas:I think it's not a good statement.Since some time I see so many contradictions,that I don't want to put my trust in it.We put our trust in ourselves and people who work in honest way.HC scene is not deep enough,it's only on a surface.Usualy typical hc people don't like to work with us,I think.Anyway I don't like to call it hc scene-it'not a musical question,I think.In the question,we speak about,the style of music is not important.Our life doesn't depend on existance of a hc scene,I hope.Before, there wasn't any hc scene and we existed and in some years there'll be probably no hc scene and TROTTEL will still exist,I hope.We don't come with this hc fashion and won't go away with it.
Ildi:Maybe.a lot of people will hate us because of it.
Tomas:But it's not me who found it-it's a fact.But I am sometimes really angry that you can't tell anything wrong against hc scene.It's like in stalinist system-you can't criticize anyone.And the hc scene is not so open-minded as it should be,as it was in the beginning.Now it's no better than a society.There's a contradiction in every country when some organisation becomes bigger.First problem is with organising,but we usualy cannot solve it and finish with "Sorry,there's too many bands/labels..."If we want to create anything better than society we cannot do this.



You released 2 records in France.Did you try to release them in Hungary?Do you think contribution to a state label is bad?

Tomas:No,we never tried,cause we were never interested in working this way.During a lot of years in USSR nobody had a possibility of releasing a record During 80s in USSR there was a lot of tapes produced and distributed illegaly and they sold in some thousand copies.I remember the story when I was younger and first TROTTEL existed.Every year somebody organised festival for young bands,but with no audience-you live together with members of the other bands,during a day you could record a demo tape,at night there were gigs,where some people from radio,state labels came and there were civil policemen from youth section.It was so disgusting and that's why I don't want to be on their label, or be in touch with them.For us it was never a question to ask them or not.When we formed a new TROTTEL we decided to do a record abroad and we made it.And I am sure we're on a good way.But for Hungarians it's kind of miracle-they can't believe it could work in an alternative way.They think we have got a menager in West and that we earn much money,because we got a record in France.

It's rare to see Eastern band travelling with its own car and equipment.How could you afford it?



Your sincere innocence
X MIST
Meisenweg 10
7270 Nagold
Germany

Tomas:For the first tour we borrowed a car from a friend of our drummer,but when we changed a drummer we rented a car,but some days before leaving on tour it went out of order,so we had to ask our friends and parents for money and we bought the car.And since one year we try to give money back.

Your music was reviewed as similar to different bands.Did you change your style under the influence of some of them?

Ildi:Like everybody says:"Our music comes from inside".It's not a conscious thing how we do our style.If we must find the influencing band,these 2 can be Joy Division and Subhumans.And only on that way that we liked the way music expresss lyrics and upside down and that was an influence,not musical style or lyrics style.
Tomas:We were compared to:Victims Family,Siouxie, 60s Pink Floyd,King Crimson,Jefferson Airplane,[illegible] Crass,Subhumans,Minimal Compact.Some of those bands -King Crimson,Jefferson Airplane,Pink Floyd,Victims Family-we started to listen to after reading the reviews and didn't know their music before.Behind the fact that,for example,Victims Family are good musicians and we aren't,they play also really mixed music and it's really proffesional,but I think it's just technical question,but I think our music is more sensitive,comes deeper from inside.

Is there any skinhead problem in Hungary?How do you deal with them?

Ildi:Yes,there is.Punks are too pasive in confrontation with them.Usualy,when we organise a gig we never let them in and since half a year they even don't try to come.

In Poland some groups try to start alternative centers.Was there any similar project in Hungary?

Tomas:Yes,there was some occupation of a building in Budapest,organised by a singer of A.M.D. Building was squated in December 89.There was many people,everyone occupied a flat or a room and put their names on the doors.Next,we went to the city council and there was a big discussion between us and a man from there-we told we want to create alternative center,kitchen,place for gigs.We wanted to create an association,but we weren't let to do it,what's strange,because in Hungary everyone can create such association and we even don't know what happened to our demand.And next,second problem was that the building was really destroyed and with no money we couldn't do anything.We asked for a support an anarchist group "Autonomia",organised a meeting for everyone who wanted to to live there and half of the people whose names were on the doors didn't come,there was only about 20 people and most of them were 16 years old or "destroy"

punks.So we had no money and there was not enough people who wanted to help,not only to drink beer. After this meeting we waited for the permission-nothing,we phoned to city council-nothing and finally we heard that city council told that after elections he'll kick the people out.I've also heard that some people want to squat something in a Southern Hungary,in Szeged.

What's the situation in Hungary like?What can you say about last elections?

Tomas:At the beginning,in Hungary,ther was communist party and opposition.But you cannot compare Hungarian opposition to Polish one,because in Hungary the opposition was kind of intelectual elite with writers,philosophers.There were 2 parts in opposition.One called popular opposition and the other called urban opposition.Popular opposition was always a bit oportunist,there was more writers etc in popular oposition,while in urban opposition there were mathematicians etc.Popular opposition created party called "Democratic Forum",urban opposition is now "The federation of free democrats" "Federation" was more radical with really radical members.The difference between those 2 parties is that first one made many compromises,they allowed communist party members to be in "Democratic Forum", for example one of police directors.They call themselves "calm power".This is the most important of their slogans."Federation's" slogan is "There are some who like it free".Communist party was broken in 2 parts-stalinist one and new one with the reformers /"Socialist Party"/,who want to be a kind of Western style socialist party.In the country-side there's a "Party of small farmers".During the elections "Federation" was too radical for Hungarians,because they told they don't want to work with ex-communist party members,but "calm power" was more sympathic for Hungarians,because in Hungary there was a lot of people worked in the party or whose jobs depended on the party,so everybody who served the power before was afraid that if "Federation" wins,they'll lose their jobs etc. When it was sure that communist party will lose, their supporters voted for "Democratic Forum",too. During the elections there was a kind of racist campaign against "Federation",'cause many people told they are Jewish.It was not a big one,but it counts I think.Finally,"Democratic Forum" and "Party of small farmers" have Christian ideology. There was also a big propaganda to make people voting,but many of them were unaware,didn't know whom to support and they chosen "Party of small farmers",because they believed in change of situation with food.And finally,"Democratic Forum" won, so they had a right to create a government,but they weren't strong enough.They wanted to make a coalition andasked "Party of small farmers"/who were 3rd/ and "Christian-Democratic Popular Party". And now we have Christian coalition and "calm power" with slow changes.

So is there much influence from the church in Hungary now?

Tomas:Comparing to Poland,Hungary is not so Christian country.

Do people use freedom of speech?How is the anarchist and alternative movement going in Hungary?

Tomas:A lot of people use freedom of speech to beat the others' opinion.In a country where since 45 years there wasn't tradition to express yourself it's now really violent,'cause people are not educated to use this freedom.There's plenty of newspapers,every party has its own.This is a strange thing that there wasn't any kind of left wing movement."Autonomia" exists since 2 years and after it was created there was no other anarchist group created.There's no newspaper speaking about anarchy,people don't know anything about it and it's a kind of mistery for them,they don't like it because being left wing is not the best thing to do in Hungary now.I don't know why,but it's the same with punk,hc scene-it exists in every country, but not in Hungary.

But people in Poland know some names-Kampec Dolores,Bikini,Aurora,Biztonsagi Tanacs-can you say something about these bands?

Tomas:Kampec Dolores was created from Kontrol Csoport,which was very famous in the beginning of 80s and their guitarist formed K.D.,but I don't know so much about them.The guitarist has a radio show in national radio /1 hour in 1 month/,he discovered for Hungarians DOG FACED HERMANS,organised a gig for them and played in radio before.K.D. have a record out on De Konkurrel-they are in good relation with THE EX and probably they proposed them to release the record.Bikini was a kind of rock band,they're now about 40 years old official rock musicians.They recorded lp,played gigs,but never had punk audience.When their original singer left,they became even much commercial-now you can see them on Sky Channel.Aurora-for me this band is Hungarian GBH and they are really popular in Hungary,since some time mostly among metal fans. Biztonsagi Tanacs-their singer is one of a few persons in Hungary who thinks and acts in alternative way,but the band is not too serious.Now the singer organises gigs in his city,sometimes makes fanzine.

What can you say about other bands and zines?

Tomas:88 from Szeged,A.M.D. from Budapest are very active since some time.I know only one young punk band called Aqpunktura.I forgot Kretens-since 2 years they play again,but since 10 years there isn't a lot of changes in a band's music and lyrics.It's hard question for me,'cause since 1988 I spent only some time in Hungary.There are some zines:"Second Vision",fanzine of the singer of Biztonsagi Tanacs called "Vitamine".I read about another one or two,but I didn't see it.There's an official newspaper called "Alterock" which pays attention to this kind of bands,but it's not a good business and their economical supporters want to stop with it.

What about "Blackhole"-what kind of place it is?

Tomas:"Blackhole" is a cave of a culturehouse of a factory,so it isn't an independent place.People call it alternative center,but it's because of the music you can hear there.But even if it's official place,they work in a correct way with bands and public."Blackhole" since the beginning let the new bands make concerts and if there was enough people bands get payed.

What's a story of TROTTEL in Hungary and how did you succeed in Western Europe later?

Tomas:The first important moment for us was in 1983,when our drummer left Hungary,we were looking for the drummer for 3 months,but finally we split up.Later we formed with the guitarist another hc band,later I went to France,when I got back we continued this band,but finally we split up and that was a time we formed TROTTEL once again with Ildi,but we didn't want to do the same things.

After coming from France I had no passport,so we started to write everywhere and made many friends, so if we toured and made records later-it's all thanks to these relations.

Was it a big difficulty for you that you're Hungarian band?

Tomas:It depends on a country.In Italy,France, Belgium it sometimes helps.But for example in Germany places are not interested in us,but I think it's not cause we're Hungarians,but cause we're not Americans.I think many German bands have the same problems.

I often hear that many Western countries have more healthy scene than UK.What can you say about your tour there?

Tomas:It's strange,because we spent 10 days in UK, but we hadn't occasion to see their scene.I can only tell that it was very strange and sometimes I felt like a machine.There was no relation with people.In Europe people usualy come after gigs to speak,but not in UK.We met some nice people,but not as many as in Europe.I don't know,but maybe English people are less openminded than Europeans. For us England was too cold.

Which places did you like best?

Tomas:Usualy in the south of Europe audience is more friendly,so for us the best places were Roma, Torino,Lyon.Usualy in every squat in Europe you can find nice people,organisers are usualy nice, public-not always.I don't mean Italy,but in Germany for example,public is sometimes not so interesting.Sometimes we like to play in bars-usualy we do really good concerts in bars.For us the worst gigs were in those places,where there are a lot of gigs every week,for example in Hamburg.The best public is in Italy,Belgium and Poland.

How did you find last gigs in Czechoslovakia and Poland?

Tomas:If we speak about the public-it's better than in most western countries.
Ildi:Maybe they're not better,just more open to what is going around.
Tomas:Maybe that's because not much gigs happen in such places.Public wasn't aggressive-before the tour we thought it can be like in Hungary,cause it is also East and in Hungary audience is very violent sometimes.Comparing to Hungary it was interesting to see that this really young public buys zines,tapes and there are people who sell it,cause in Hungary there aren't.The most important feeling in Poland was that we feel existance of some movement,or scene which doesn't exist in Hungary.Another thing-organisation.Comparing to Hungary-nearly everyone who organised concert for us was really nice.But I think that there were 2 different kinds of places-in one people used to organise gigs for foreign bands,in another not.In Hungary and sometimes in Italy,those places which aren't used to organise gigs for foreign bands-they forget about something or cannot see the difference between local and foreign band.So the basic situation was sometimes-there were nice people who wanted to organise party or a concert.I find it very good that there are young people,who organise concerts by themselves,but I don't know if it's the lack of experience or what,but they don't see any difference between local and foreign band. Because of it we got some hard moments in some cities.Because of food,drinks and money,sometimes because of equipment.If you're in a band who're on tour,mostly in foreign countries,especialy in Poland,where is a special situation /it's not so easy to find open shops with food and drinks,gigs start early/...We used to play tours and we used to organize gigs,so we can understand both sides. At first when we came to Poland as a band we're conscious of some things-about money,shops.But if you're in special situation as a Polish /and not French or German/ organiser,you've to be conscious what you can undertake.Because band asks for few money and organiser has to respect few money.I think it's only human question-it's respect for everybody.I respect the organisers,their job,I don't tell it's a shit place and that we'd like to go to Monte Carlo-it's our respect.And the organiser has to respect the band in such way that,at least,has to prepare what he promises.My personal problem wasn't a fact that instead of 400000 zloties they gave 150000,but during those gigs there was no organiser who came to us and said "Sorry,there wasn't enough public" or "We have to pay for equipment or the hall".Usualy in Europe they come and say "Here's your money,but we loose-there was not enough people".And after we decide to give money back or not-and we always gave.If somebody is not able to work in correct way for free,maybe it's better to work for some money,but in a correct way.Sometimes I am against playing, organising for free.I prefere public to pay,band and organiser to get.If public don't pay,they sometimes don't respect anything.
We try to do everything by ourselves-we sell tapes for half of usual western price,give posters for free,we organise our tour by ourselves.It's not like we've a menager,who prepares a gig for every day and we don't have to be afraid about money.In poor countries the problem is that we sometimes get 20% of a really few money that we ask for and since 1% a year we loose money on it.If it works this way one day we can decide-"Well,it doesn't work".In Germany we have another problem-sometimes it's easier to find a gig in big place,cause we get money there.But anarchists/squatters would call us commercial,cause we don't want to play in squat.I think it's good solution to play 2 gigs in every city-one in big place for money and second one in squat,for free.But they won't like it and will call us commercial...

So why don't you want to use big promoters to prepare your tour?

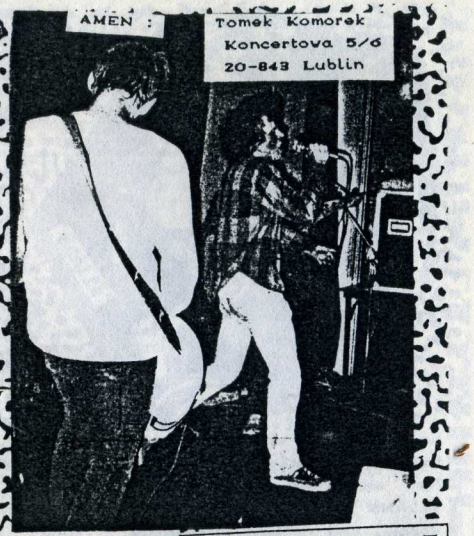
Tomas:At the beginning-the big promoters are not interested in making something together with small Hungarian band-I think it's a situation in Europe now.So the American life style is a fashion in Europe now,in Eastern Europe too.50-years-old people consume "Dallas",30-years-old consume American career,20-years-old consume American fast food, we consume American fast core.Another point about promotors-these big labels,promotors had basicaly very good ideas in the beginning,so they are not shitheads.It's true that they work within this scene since many years,mostly "for nothing".But they had to realise that this scene is also a consumer scene,generally,as a mass /the difference between commercial youth and hc/punk/alternative scene is that among us there is maybe more people into doing something more/.They want to consume fast core,fast t-shirts etc.Crass realised it very early-they told that if all these people who bought thousands of their records treated it seriously-they'd do a revolution.The same thing exists now-labels and promoters want to fit audience's needs,because no one can change the world.

I'd like to write something about what's happening in Poland in Spring of 1991 - I hope it'll bring some fresh air to this zine.

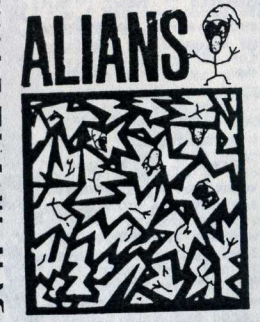
It seems like we have elections in Poland all the time - Parlament,City Councils,President,Parlament again and still less people decide to vote. You've heard, of course, about all this mess about Tyminski, who came from novhere and was 2nd in presidential elections. Polish mass-media call Poles crazy because people voted for him, there's much talk about "commie" agents, others say that he was the only way out for people bored with Solidarnosc. But there is another story that is in my opinion very likely. When the elections were coming everyone knev that both Solidarnosc candidates had biggest chances. Many influencial newspapers supported Mazoviecki and there were really good articles describing Walesa and his career from critical point of viev (it's not so strange that they disappeared when it became obvious that Mazoviecki had no chance - after 1st tour of elections). Public opinion research offices showed that Walesa and Mazoviecki had equal chances. Many people decided to vote against Walesa and the only way for them was (or at least seemed to be) voting for Mazoviecki, even if they weren't satisfied with his policy. It was just choosing less devil candidate. And it could succeed just like in June '89, when Solidarnosc first time had possibility to be elected. There was many independent candidates, some of them were surely "better" than Solidarnosc's ones, but people knev that communists' only chance was to divide opposition. So - many people voted for Solidarnosc realising that it can't start a paradise, but is the only way to get more personal freedom at the moment (nov, unfortunately, old totalitarian methods seem to work again here). Suddenly, Tyminski, whom no one took much seriously, tells during a meeting with his supporters that he can prove that Mazoviecki contributed to Soviets, which is for average Pole vorse than being murderer or rapeman. Mazoviecki's popularity immediately fallen down and unknown Canadian-Peruvian-Pole gained 2nd amount of votes. All the press connected with both parts of divided Solidarnosc attacked him and he was asked to make things clear at the court. Walesa, who had claimed that if he didn't get enough percentage of votes in 1st tour, he'd give up (even if he was 1st) finally told that "if Mazoviecki was 2nd - he'd give up, but nov he has to protect Poland from Tyminski". And of course he von. But it's not the end of a story. Walesa told much about hov does he vant to punish Tyminski for telling lies about Polish Prime Minister Mazoviecki. So Tyminski came to a judge and... he told that he can call everything off, the indictment was changed and no punishment was sentenced. Who vins, who loses? I don't say that there was such plan prepared, but concerning everything what happened doesn't that sound likely? Walesa changed the government,rounded himself by his supporters and creates church state. It's really frustrating, but I vrote something about it somevhere else. Other fresh idea of Walesa are mixed policemen-soldiers patrols on the streets. Have you heard about the same in Gorbie land? It's getting vorse with civil service here. After short time, when it was quite easy to get this possibility instead of army service nov Polish young democracy needs strong army again. They try to frighten people telling hov dangerous Soviet Union is, especially because Russian troops still stay in Poland. Some people got imprisoned for refusing military service - the same thing that commies did at their best times.

Big pressure from church resulted in a vave of anti-church tendencies within Polish alternative scene. Just take bands like **INKWIZYCJA,AMEN, WIWISEKCJA,SCHIZMA** - you can see it even in the names they use. **AMEN's** singer's comix zine "Zakazany Ovoc" is full of funny stories, often laughing at Polish catholic double-standards. **INKWIZYCJA** is a band which released first Polish independent record. You can order it from us - see the distro list. If you like the record maybe you can help with organising some gigs for them... We have quite a few really interesting bands in Poland nov - it's great as since some years ve had only several interesting bands. **AHIMSA** is very young band, but their music is developed with jazzy & even classical tunes. It's great that they improveall the time and even if there's too much rumour about them they get better and better. If you knov **HCP** ep released by Sviss label Resistance Productions - **APATIA** is a nev band with 2 ex-HCP members. I like their music and their creativity, but I think they should spend more time practising - you can see some mistakes during their shovs,but their music and lyrics are still very interesting, one of my favourite in Poland. If you like faster or metal influenced stuff (I can't find any good label for such music - vhen I see a reviev saying about crossover/metal influenced stuff I think it's crap, but I like bands mentioned beneath and many bands from other countries vhoch can be labelled this vay) you'd love **SKTC**. They recorded a demo tape a year ago, but later they changed line up ant they only practice for last half a year. People vait for their gigs and everyone expects great stuff again. **CONFUSION** is 2-piece project, but both guys can play their instruments and I think if they lived closer to big scene centers they'd be much more popular. To finish vith bands I'll name some more - **BRUDY,DIFFERENT STATES OF SANITY,ALIANS, ACID ROTTEN BUT OK** (who have an ep out), **FOB, KARA SMIERCI** - they're all vorth listening/seeing live, certainly as vell as all others I don't knov or didn't mention.

SKTC : Irek Partyka
Slovackiego 21
43-322 Czechovice Dziedzice



AMEN :
Tomek Komorek
Koncertova 5/6
20-843 Lublin



ALIANS

APATIA
·the Literature & Art Against Fascism
·Die Literatur und Kunst gegen Faschismus

WIWISEKCJA :
Konrad Zawadzki
Skopenki 22/59
87-450 Stalova Wola

I have to write something about other activities. "Aqryq" is a zine, distro, label,they organise gigs and tours. They are the oldest and most popular Polish zine. They sold 4000 (four thousand) copies of #15, nov ve vait for #16 in Polish and English version. They also release tapes of Polish bands as vell as **NOMEANSNO** "Live in Warsav". Another active group of people is "Kulturka" collective from Pila. They organise gigs, distribute much stuff, but they

have also vider interests. They have lately printed "save trees" stickers for envelopes and send them for free. ALIANS is connected with "Kulturka" vork and their guitarist runs Polish Amnesty International office.

People get more apathetic nov, but they are still caring ones. Community of All Beings (formerly RWZ - Animal Liberation Movement) is quite active and looks for nev contact and support. They print their ovn magazine concerning animal rights, print stickers, leaflets. "Green Brigades" is an independent ecological monthly magazine, they also put out English iaues. If you can help them vith distribution it'll be great support for them. Workshop for All Beings is a group of people into deep ecology. They organise different activities - from zen meditation and ecological education, to their ovn magazine "Raport" and radical actions in defence of Mother Earth. Workshop consists of different people, they're forestmen,architects, biologists,

youth working together when necessary. Their actions are very good planned and often bring results. I didn't write about zines - there vas plenty of them last 2 years. They are mostly in Polish, but if you're interested I recommend "Qqryq", "Greencore", "Rdzeń" and the most interesting Polish anarchist mag "Mac Parladka". You can find here some addresses that can help you to get more informations on issues you're interested in. You can feel free to vrite to me as vell...

MICHAŁ

CONFUSION : Andrzej Pogorzelski
Gorna 1/36
18-100 Łapy

APATIA : Piotr Bielevski
Nad Potokiem 21/13
60-630 Poznan

SCHIZMA : Krzysiek Kornak
Bartlomieja 13/2
85-701 Bydgoszcz

AHIMSA :
PO BOX 30
02-105 Warszava 21

DIFFERENT STATES OF SANITY :
Andrzej Picevicz
Fika 15/10
32-600 Osviecim

Community of All Beings
Radek Kisielevski
Zvierzyniecka 19a/4
15-312 Bialystok

Workshop for All Beings
Andrzej Janusz Korbel
Magi 21/3
43-300 Bielsko-Biała

"Kulturka" Zbig Waraksa
Al. WP 1/54
64-920 Piła

"Greencore" see APATIA
PO BOX 157
01-703 Warszava

"Qqryq"
Zbyszek Matera

ZINES

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WORDS OF WARNING!

Flora-Programm
I have known Markus for some time and I interviewed him,as he has much interesting things to say,in Summer 1990.You can find here Boris Becker photo as a squatter - when you finish reading this interview you will know why his face is right here...

Intro:

My name is Markus and what else to say...I live in Hamburg since October 89,I escaped from GDR,where I lived for nearly 25 years and I was connected with political and musical underground in GDR,I played in punk bands from 82 to 86,I played in one of the first punk bands in GDR,called VIRUS X from Roztock. In 85 I started to study in Berlin and in 86 I joined a band called NAMENLOSS /they were put in prison in 83,because of anti-nazi song/,we also did a tour in Poland /4-5 gigs/,later we split up,I played very short time in WARTBURGS FUR WALTER ,but I went out of this band,they looked for new drummer, because they wanted to make an official permission to play in GDR under those old conditions,when every cultural oposition was a fear to government and they wanted to have control and make every band to have permission and that was not something I wanted to do.later,in 1989 I organised in Berlin gigs for NOMEANSNO,SOULSIDE,MIND OVER 4,VANDALS and FALSE PROPHETS.In September 89 I tried to get a visa to visit my grandmother,who become 80-ane-I-was-lucky to leave GDR and my plans were to go to the West, because I felt really frustrated with all the situation in GDR.

How did you meet punk movement?What's the most interesting for you,what's much positive and what's negative in punk?Did this meeting give you more happiness or annoyance?

It was 1981 or 80-I never heard any punk music,I only heard something about punk from GDR mass media which tried to show it as something fascist,because punks used fascist symbols in the past,Sid Vicious and 77 punks used it to shock people.And this attitude-shocking people was something in my head,I didn't use it,but it was in my head.Once we were coming back with some friends from secondary school and I came to conclusion that everything I did in my life was a big lie and at that time there was something like a break in my life.Everything was a big lie and I wanted to express it and I was also frustrated by all the people who played a game,I kinda woke up,I had to express it.And I remembered this punk image from magazines and I thought it's the only way to express that I don't want to conform.So I took the leather jacket and I put many self made buttons and plastic trash on it.It wasn't any punk uniform,like some years later,because I never saw any punk alive,I new it only from picturs.I heard there were some punks in the town I come from-Roztock,but I never saw them.So I was walking on the street with this strange outlook and for people it was really shocking and I felt hate from everybody,because I made them insecure of their lifes,they conformed lifes they used to live. Then I met during a party some guys who also looked like punks and they played in a band called TRASH BOYS,then I joined and we created the band VIRUS X. From those guys I got my first punk recordings and since then I came in touch with music.But impressions and outlook were first due to the fact that I couldn't buy any punk records in GDR,but those guys had many records-their grandmothers sent them records from Germany...

SEX PISTOLS records ???

Yes,so "Never mind the grandmothers",haha.
What's the most interesting in punk?In old days the most interesting for me was to break out from conformity,to stand up and to show everybody that you don't want to live their life.And in the town where I was born-with 250000 inhabitants and with 5 or 6 punk rockers it was something good,but it created a lot of problem.Punk changed also things inside,because I had to react to the hate,pressure from people,I had to become hard,to emigrate to my inner side.There were places,like restaurants,where we couldn't go,because people were aggressive when they saw us.In the early 80s police took punk movement as a serious problem for the government,because it showed in a very obvious way that they don't agree with straight,disciplined German youth.It was like a virus which could infect other people.For so called "communist" governments it was really important to show that every citizen of the country is really happy.In tv news they told about 100% workers voting for their local government.During my schooltime everybody should agree with the opinion created by communist party and only the fact that you looked the other way made them treat you like an enemy.For example in Berlin,in early 80s police took punks from the streets,cut their hair,asked for papers,went to schools,tried to change their attitude,some people were prisoned in prisons for youth.I also had some problems,police took me from the street in Berlin and secret police,called Staatssicherheit came to my school and took me out of the lesson and begun to say that I'm not right and they give me a chance to change my outlook and wanted to speak with me...
So it's not easy to say if punk gave me more happiness or annoyance.It's hard for me to imagine what would happen if I conformed as a schoolboy,as a citizen.But I don't know if I could live without criticizing things I didn't like.At first I think it's really important to me to stand up and to be honest and I think it's good for everyone to say what one thinks.It was sometimes really dangerous for me whe when I told what I thought,it caused many problems, created the pressure on my soul in the time when there were big changes in my mind.Now I can look at those times as something a little bit romantic.But to be honest-it was sometimes very hard.In the past for me the most positive was that people wanted to stand up and say what they wanted.It was also very positive that people started to do different things -to organise gigs,to play in a band and not to look at the idols,like rock bands which used to be idols for the people of the same age when I was in GDR and we took drums,we took guitars and we started to play,I think that was very important.And now,there is a scene,also in Hamburg,that I really like,where people try to keep this level-uncommercial,personal treating of punk,to organise little parties,little uncommercial gigs where people can come for really low money,for 5DM.There are really big differences, you can go to "Flora","Stortebecker" and some other uncommercial places and see really good bands /i.e. FALSE PROPHETS/ for 5DM,but at the same time you can go to big places like "Markthalle" and see bands for 25DM,it's really sold out part of punk. And if I hear about BAD RELIGION that they will get 50000DM for a gig I really don't want to go to any of their gigs.Usualy,American bands like NOMEANSNO

get 1000-2000DM.There's also a difference between NOMEANSNO and FUGAZI on one side and BAD RELIGION, because I think that bands like NOMEANSNO and FUGAZI don't try to get as much money as they could get,they try to limit the prices of tickets even if they could get much more money.And I think BAD RELIGION is a band which wants to get that lot what they can get and don't care about creating a level of payment for bands which divides the scene.This year it was 5000DM,I don't know what will come next year.And for me it's very important.This is a trend that they are creating,they show that bands can get much money;but there are bands who care.As I know FUGAZI sent a fax to people who organised their gig here and said that if the ticket costs more than 12DM,they won't play.

Negative are things,like people taking too much drugs,who are not able to control themselves,who are just dependent upon the drugs which they've to buy from the companies or the government,who are supporting the government buying the drugs.They're not able to fight against anything like they painted on their leather jacket.In the past I never felt good with that kind of punk attitude-to be hard,to drink a lot,to be violent.But in the past, especialy in GDR,there was much of special scheme how you had to be.Now I think there are good tendencies,since 4-5 years.Bands like MINOR THREAT first told "I hate this attitude.I don't want to be violent.I don't want to take drugs.I want to be myself.I want to live my own life.I want to change something."And now you can be in the scene without being violent,without this attitude.In the past it was much harder.But I only can compare it with the situation in GDR.

So do you think hard core is much positive than punk?

I don't want to divide punk from hc and say "punk was bad,hc is good".It is both.As I think about bands like SUBHUMANS,CRASS and I see all American bands calling themselves hc,which play for much money and aren't serious in any way,I can't say hc is good and punk was bad.There was a step forward that people said "I don't want to be violent,I don't want to be aggressive" and things like that.But capitalism is that strong that it's possible to see the potential of music and things where they can take money from.So hard core,at the moment,means not so much to me.

West Berlin citizens,contrary to other German citizens,are not obligated to army service.We heard an opinion that big number of anti-militarists,who came to West Berlin caused creation of so strong scene there.What is the situation like in Hamburg?

I think that special situation made many people escape from any service,which is slevery from the government,to West Berlin.Here,in Hamburg,people have to go to civil service if they don't want to go to the army.They have to answer special questions to get the permission for civil service,but most people who want it-get it.The strong scene in Hamburg is created by a fact that policy in Hamburg isn't as oppressive as,for instance,in south of Germany,which is more conservative and this preassure makes people think where to go to live without this pressure and then they have 2 possibilities,so most people like to go to Hamburg or West Berlin. And many people like to go to Hamburg,because it isn't as isolated as Berlin.

Tell us,how does Hamburg look like?Once you said that different quarters have people of different political backgrounds living in...

For me there is a big difference between cities in GDR and here.You can see very big differences between only a few hundreds meters in the cities.You can see old houses not so coloured,with less expensive shops,there's more dirt on the streets in areas like Altona,Schanzenviertel,St.Pauli,Eimsbuttel, Ottensen,but among those parts there are also differences.Eimsbuttel used to be a place for alternative movements 10 or 15 or 20 years ago and you can see that these people are now after their studies,they are teacherr or they have other professions,so they have more money and you see it.Alternative people lived also in areas like Ottensen 10 years ago and even live now,but these areas are very attractive for rich people,because there sre nice,old houses and special atmosphere which yuppie people like to see.And it's near to the center of the city where is many offices where many of these yuppie fuckers work. There's many alternative places,some of them are really radical,like Haffenstrasse,where 100-150 people live together,where are 3 or 4 pubs,center where gigs take place.It consists of people with different political directions,there is for instance a house where only women live.Another center which can be called radical leftwing is "Flora",which is squatted since November 89.The difference between "Flora" and Haffenstr. is that Haffenstr. has contracts.There's another big squat called Schanze,where about 50 people live and there's also a squat in Eimsbuttel,25 people live there.At the moment there is a fight to save these old houses,older than 100 years,its owner wants to destroy them and build new houses there.There are also many alternative bookshops,libertarian center aith anarchist library, there's also a center called "The 3"- many third world happenings /gigs,discussions/ take place there.

What are the main topics of activity in those centers in Hamburg now?

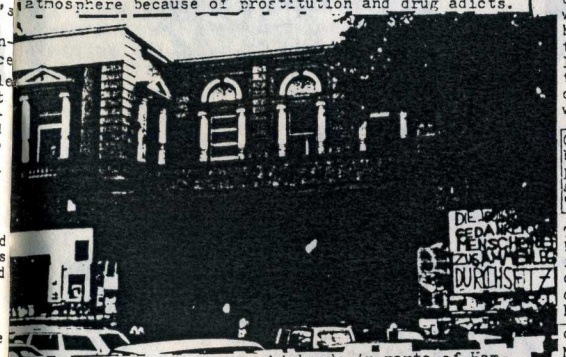
At Haffenstr. they have really many problems,there's a trial against them.The city authorities try to throw them out and create terrorist image of Haffenstrasse,so they have really big problems with police 2 months ago 3000 policemen came to these 150 people they came to the houses and for 8 hours they didn't let anyone get near to the buildings.They were looking for some terrorists,they said.They want to end it,because Haffenstr. is a symbol for the people to fight to create their own lives.I can tell you a story.Boris Becker-tennis star,who owns millions of dollars,told during some interviews that he's from Hamburg and he understood Haffenstr.,he understood people who made bomb attacks against big business which is bad connected with third world problems and he told that for him that's a problem that sometimes his money is working in such plans.He told that he'd give some free tickets to people from Haffenstr. to go to his show.So we tried to show people how foolish Becker is and to make very funny action which could show Haffenstr. i different light in the media.We went there with false beards,noses and heads and made some transparents.Police came with 9 cars,with sticks and shields and they didn't know how to treat us.First they thought we maight attack this hall where Boris Becker played and it was very funny,because we were laughing at them and all the press were laughing,because police were standing. In "Flora" we want to have a center where we can organise any kind of activity,from punk/hc gigs,reggae gigs,latin music to show movies,to give rooms to people who want to do something.We arrange weekly program and we put it to the shops in the area and we try to make young people come to "Flora" ,because it's a center of this area and should bring more people together,but it's not so easy to make people active,mostly people are into consuming things.We also have the "people's kitchen" where meals cost about 2-3 DM and the cheapest meals in restaurants cost 8-9 DM.We also do theater performances,political discussions when we want to organise a demonstration.The old "Flora" war the opera building,so called "people's opera",where people from that area could in the last 100 years go and see box fightings, theater plays,cinema.One capitalist bastard had plans to build commercial opera in the same place and to destroy old building,then there was a successful fight against his plans,but he buit new opera building 800 meters from "Flora".One play will be played every night for 5 or 7 years and tickets cost 80 to 150 DM.When they had first show there were big riots against this "New Flora".

There's also an anarchist center with the library, where I work.For us it's very interesting to see people using words and frazes without any /or with half/ knowledge about it and we think it's important to read and to discuss about things and also to read about history,because if you ignore the history you can make the same mistakes.We want to let people read books so we lend them on security.We're very interested in anarchist and libertarian activities in every country,so we can become stronger and create international net.People can send stuff to:

Markus Mathyl
Harkortstr. 30
2 Hamburg 50
Germany

German football team won last World Championships and there was big riot in Hamburg after final match. Do you have much problems of this kind?Can you say something about this riot and about problems with football hooligans and skinheads here?Is there much rightwing influence in Hamburg now?

This riot had a special quality,because of all "Big Germany" thing.After becoming world champions people became crazy about it.I think that those football championships were kid of war without using weapons, also sport jurnalists spoke about it in this way and it was logic continuation that people fight after it. Rightwing hooligans and skinheads were only a part of this big crowd of more than 10 000 people,they were about 1000 people and they tried to attack Haffenstr.,but they were not successful.They fought with police from 7 o'clock to 3 at the morning.It was not first time when football hoologans and skinheads attacked Haffenstr.,there was something like that during Europe Championships and after every football match 100 or 50 of them try to go to Haffenstr.,they're on Reeperbahn,where is a violent atmosphere because of prostitution and drug adicts.



Usualy,there aren't any skinheads in parts of Hamburg like Altona,Schanzenviertel,Eimsbuttel,St. Pauli.It's a question of our strength that they don't come here,my friends told me that in the part there was many fights between skins and leftwing people.Because of this strong leftwing scene skins were banned from these centers.But outside,on the periphery of Hamburg,there's many skinheads and there are often problems with skins.

Are there also anti-racist skins in Hamburg?

Yes,there are S.H.A.R.P. skins,who become more numerous in Hamburg.They also come mainly from the outside of Hamburg.They try to stop fascist skins.

Are typical German attributes,like dutifulness,hard work,the only reasons of creating in Germany the most energetic scene in Europe?

I haven't had any possibility of comparing German scene to other western countries,because I have never been there.I think economical things are also important-people have time to do things,but you can also say that it's against it-you may say if people are more oppressed they may try to protect more against the pressure.But this good economical situation means that there's also big oppression here,but not in so obvious way.Maybe people take it more seriously here.

How much German hc/punk scene is into politics?

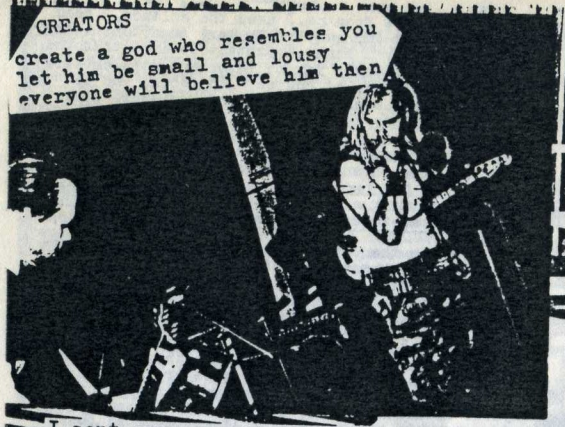
There are people who organise things,who play in a band,do some political activity,but there are also people who are only into music.Bands like ARM,STOP EATING-they're more connected with political scene. There are tendencies that people who are into hc don't like so straight political atitude.Sometimes due to the fact that some political groups have strange opinion about culture,they haven't organic thinking of life-sometimes they only see fighting, which is very important-to resist,to fight,but I can't cut things from me.I need the culture,I need an identity and our culture is very important to me. And also the way I fight,I protest is important,the outlook of a flyer is for me important,it's estetic thing.But there are of course also people who are only into music,who don't want any knowledge about what does society mean.Or maybe even people gave up depressed by reality,which seems not to be able to be changed or depressed by some political groups which were too strange for them.

What do you think about the union?Did East Germany really have another chance and didn't succeed?

I can imagine the other way the society could develope.But to be honest I can't imagine it with the people who live in GDR.Knew them too good to say that they would be able to know it.The attitude of GDR people was influenced,more or less,by so called "communist" system which made insecure,dependent people who believe in authority.And for those people it would be very hard to cmeate something different, something where not insecure people are needed,who don't believe in authority,who are able to find new ways.Of course also West Germany was too near and had such a big influence with its economical power to show the people "don't you want to live like we live?".And people were tought to look for economical things,not for a better way of life,just for better coloured plastic things,better taste things,so there wasn't any chance.

Can you tell something about new German bands?Do GDR bands use opportunity given by new situation and play in West Germany for bigger audience /not because they're good,but because they're after period of "rerression"/?

There is some bands in Hamburg that I like.First band I like to tell about is DAS MOOR,they've very individual way of lyrics,they are ex-members of band called ANGESCHISSEN.I like them very much,I saw one of their gigs.Of course,there is ARM,the band which has in my opinion the highest international level comparable to bands like VICTIMS FAMILY or NOMEANSNO.Another band is called NOISE ANNOYS,they sound a little like BUZZCOCKS and RAMONES.I also saw 2 BAD,who was on tour with NOMEANSNO,it was also interesting.There are 2 bands from Lubeck that I really like:FLOWER BUDS-very powerful hc band and UGLY FOOD-more in 2 BAD direction.I think there is not so many German interesting bands like American. With GDR bands the problem is that under conditions of GDR culture,they didn't develope their own way. First,some bands came here as an exotic bonus,but it was music that West Germans used to listen to years ago.There were only very few bands in GDR which were honest-called themselves underground or independent bands and also didn't make this official permission to play.There was an event that 2 bands from GDR-FIRMA and FREYGANG-came here and in one newspaper there was much about those bands and there was written that you can see bands forbidden in GDR and now they play here.In fact these bands had an official permission to play,they weren't forbidden.In my opinion it's something very dishonest that such informations are given here to make more people interested in their music.When I heard that I became very angry,because for me it was very hard discussion during the time I stayed in GDR,I tried to discuss with people that without any stand against this the government can control all cultural activities,we can't do anything new,we are used by the government to give them an image of tolerance.And I phoned to the radio which told that the bands would play the day before and my phone was on the air-I told whole story and then there was not so many people at the gig.Half a year later I heard that the bands want to bit me,because I said something that wasn't right,because I only said that they are German news band.And it's not true,this sentence is isolated from the rest of my speach.Another thing is that those bands are not the worst examples,they also had some lyrics which were not pro.



I sent some questions to INKWIZYCJA in the beginning of 1991.I wanted this one to be some kind of introduction - if you like band's lyrics,music,live set, lp feel free to write to them and ask some deeper questions.It was rather senseless in that case as most of you probably get in touch with the band for first time,so I decided to cover only certain topics.Contact the band through me or write directly to their singer,lyrics writer - Ex pert,who answered this interview.His address:

Darek Eckert
Borsucza 5/98
30-408 Kraków
Poland

You're not "old" band,but many people consider you to be one of the best Polish bands.How did INKWIZYCJA become?Which bands were you in before?

Ex pert:One great artist - Salvadore Dali said - "modesty is an attribute of average people" - so I ask: why just Polish?But seriously,it has never been our aim to be the most ... band,we simply do what we want to express as good as we can.And it seems we are not bad at it.
Inquisition became in Spain - this institution is for me an essence of all the worst;fanatical making people happy down their throats,from Torquemada until now,under different slogans.

Previous bands - well,we are not newcommers,Silent Bogdan,our drummer,have played in UOM,COMA before,Klaus - - - in HEREZJA /by the way - he still runs this band/,me and Marek have played together in GONOKOK,later I was in UOM,now we are all INKWIZYCJA,apart from occasional playing in different musical experiences.

Since some time there has been an anticlericalism fashion in Poland /also in independent circle/.What reasons can you find for this situation?

Ex pert:It's not a fashion.Its really defensive reflex.Simply Poland is ultracatholic country in its worst, repressively-dictating form.The doctrine "kind of belief is mankindness' measure!".Extent of manipulation of society and its indoctrination is already similar to previous system. It's only more aggressive and impudent and it's the most flagrant that they preach something opposite.Nowadays there is no walk of life where you wouldnt step into priest's shit.And I wouldnt be surprised if suddenly some crusade has begun.We can see its start - anti-abortion law.And its opponents do not support abortion,they are just against punishing for it in the case when state doesnt do anything to spreed contraception,and the Church even forbids it.It's a step back to Middle-age dogmas.And anti-divortion law is being prepared...The vulture's colour was simply changed from red to black.

After a period of close relationship between Polish scene and political, animal rights activities,vegetarianism, people seem to turn back to prophecies they preached a while ago.Where does it come from and how will it end?By the way whats your attitude towards mentioned things?

Ex pert:I think it was a fashion to certain extent,but I dont think people turn their backs to it.Maybe they simply stopped to shout about it chaotically and certain more explicit trends take shape.The reason was that it was,like many other things,suddenly discovered /here/ and everyone wanted to assume an attitude towards it. I think that each normal and sensitive man's attitude towards animals is positive.And vegie...Maybe its not too clever to make circumstances excuse ourselves,but in Poland there is really not enough food to choose and we usualy eat what we get /I dont agree with it - its not a problem to buy soya,vegetables,chees,fruits...

WOLF

I am frightened
walking through the city
walking through the jungle
full of human beasts

I run away
hiding my face in dirt
from ruthless blow
of ever hostile eyes

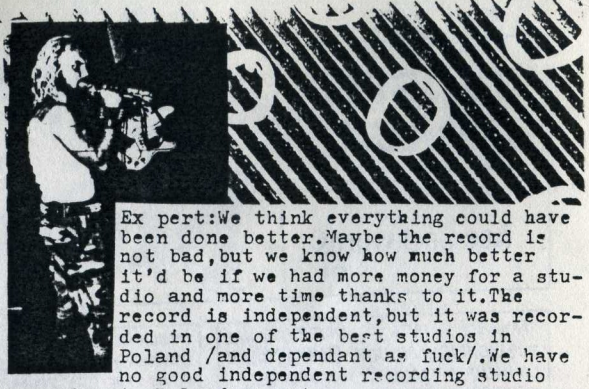
everyday I have to be a wolf

-Michał/.One can try hard and choose when it is possible,of course,but there is so much more important things than loosing time looking for vegetarian food.

It seems that your musical tastes are different than average hard core scheme. Are you anxious to be in touch with new punk/hc music?

Ex pert:Yes,thats true,we never limited our musical taste only to hc and we are definitely not anxious.Certainly,it is good to know what's happening,but not creating hits,just good music,and if we wanted to name our favourites it would take much paper.But shortly: old BLACK SABBATH,DOORS,MOTORHEAD,RAMONES, DIE KREUZEN,X MALL DEUTSCHLAND,PIL, FUGAZI,NOMEANSNO,MINIMAL COMPACT,THE EX, SLAPSHOT,YOUNG GODS,SONIC YOUTH,we can add many "one record bands" or something from different music styles.

You're first band to release a record in Poland Independent way.As usualy, it's hard in the beginning.What are you unsatisfied with,what could have been done the other way/better?

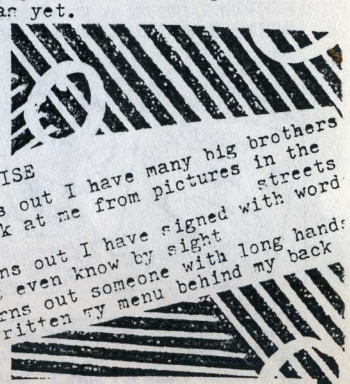


Ex pert:We think everything could have been done better.Maybe the record is not bad,but we know how much better it'd be if we had more money for a studio and more time thanks to it.The record is independent,but it was recorded in one of the best studios in Poland /and dependant as fuck/.We have no good independent recording studio in Poland as yet.

SURPRISE

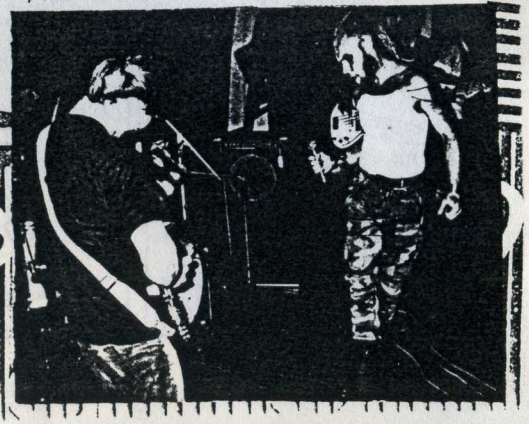
it turns out I have many big brothers
who look at me from pictures in the streets

it turns out I have signed with word
I dont even know by sight
it turns out someone with long hands
has written my menu behind my back



"What should you know about INKWIZYCJA but are afraid to ask?"

Ex pert:You should know as much as possible about Inquisition,to be able to avoid it,even if it's rather unlikely,its tentacles,in different shapes, embrace us so closely that they'll kidnap you from your own bed.
The line up of the /not dangerous to you/ INKWIZYCJA is:Klaus - bass /now replaced by Jakub/,Ex pert -voc.,Cichy Bogdan - dr.,Marek - g.
Hello to Żółw,our first guitarist and we wave hands to Świniak in Canada /our first bass/.



TWISTED IMAGE

by

Ace Backwords

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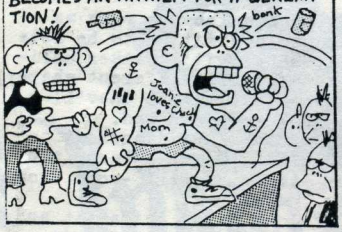
the History of MONK ROCK

JANUARY 1, 1976 .... INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING MAGNATE **BONKO MONKO** LAUNCHES "**MONK**" MAGAZINE, HERALDING THE MONK ROCK MOVEMENT! THE MASS MEDIA GOES APE SHIT!

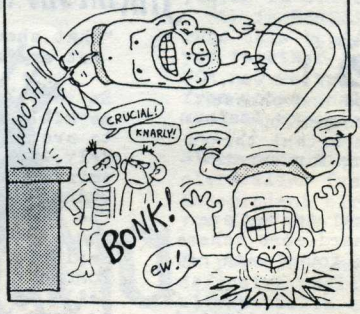
MARCH 12, 1977... MONK ROCK SINGER **JOHNNY NOT-SO-PLEASANT** AND HIS BAND THE **SEX PRIMATES** SHOCK ENGLAND!

MARCH 13, 1977 ... ENGLAND SHOCKS **JOHNNY NOT-SO-PLEASANT**!

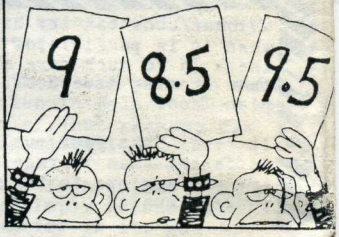
JUNE 18, 1982... MONK ROCK BAND **BLEEACH PHLEGM** TAKES LOS ANGELES BY STORM... THEIR HIT SINGLE "DRINK 6-PACK AND STOMP LEAD SINGER OF THE EAGLES FACE INTO THE DIRT" BECOMES AN ANTHEM FOR A GENERATION!



AUGUST 7, 1982... SINGER **HENRY CHEST** INVENTS THE "STAGE DIVE"!



AUGUST 8, 1982... **HENRY** WINS GOLD MEDAL FOR HIS TRIPLE-HALF-GAINER-FACE-SPLATTER AND SETS A NEW OLYMPIC RECORD FOR BONE CONTUSIONS AND FACIAL SPLINTERS!



NOVEMBER 7, 1984.... IN A SURPRISE MOVE, MONK ROCK STAR **JELLO BANANA** IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!

MARCH 14, 1986... **M.A.N.** (MOTHERS AGAINST NOSTRILS) SUE **JELLO** FOR $49 BILLION, CLAIMING HIS ALBUM "**TAMMY FAE'S NOSTRIL**" CONTAINS GRAPHIC AND OBSCENE PHOTOS OF NASAL CANALS THAT ARE HARMFUL TO CHIMPS!

APRIL 22, 1987... **JELLO** IS IMPEACHED AND SENTENCED TO 3 MONTHS OF LISTENING TO **BARBRA STREISAND** RECORDS, CRUSHING THE MONK ROCK MOVEMENT FOREVER!

THE END